Daily Report

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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council Summit Nears End 1
3d Closed Session Concludes *[WAKH]* 1
Afternoon Session Held 20 Dec *[WAKH]* 1
Panel To Prepare Communique *[WAKH]* 1
Omani Minister Comments *[Salalah Radio]* 1
Ministers To Finalize Statement *[WAKH]* 1
Final Meeting Ends 21 Dec *[WAKH]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Algeria's Bendjedid Holds Talks With 'Arafat *[Sanaa VOP]* 1
'Arafat Greets Malaysian Palestinian Symposium *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
Abu-'Ayyash on PLO Response, Ties With U.S. *[Jerusalem AL-FAJR 12 Dec]* 3
Khalid al-Hasan on U.S. Visit, Delegation *[WAKH]* 3
Jordanian-Palestinian Cooperation Reaffirmed *[Amman AL-RA'Y 19 Dec]* 4
Islamic Jihad, Fatah Discuss Intifadah *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 4
Sha'th Reportedly To Meet Weizman in Bucharest *[London AL-MAJALLAH 19 Dec]* 4
PLO Radio Assails Iran Over Israeli Oil Deal *[Baghdad VOP]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Government Expresses Concern Over U.S. Action *[Algiers TV]* 6

Egypt

Further Reportage on PRC President's Visit 6
Paper Praises Ties With PRC *[MENA]* 6
Holds 'Expanded' Talks With Mubarak *[MENA]* 6
Yang Shangkun, Mubarak on Relations *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Speaks at Inauguration Ceremony *[MENA]* 7
Holds News Conference *[MENA]* 7
Meets With Prime Minister Sidqi *[MENA]* 8
Meets With Assembly Speaker *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Concludes Official Visit 21 Dec *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Togolese Foreign Minister Ends 2-Day Visit *[MENA]* 9
Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[MENA]* 9
Iraqi President To Visit in 'Near Future' *[MENA]* 9
'Abd-al-Majid on Arab-European Dialogue *[MENA]* 9
Ambassador Says Ghali's Illness Under Control *[MENA]* 10

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement on Panama Situation *[Tripoli Radio]* 10
Urges USSR To Assume 'Obligations' *[JANA]* 10
Foreign Liaison Bureau Views U.S. 'Aggression' *[JANA]* 10
International Center's Statement *[JANA]* 11
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Islamic Gathering *[JANA]* 12

Sudan

Rebels Shoot Down French Relief Aircraft *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Al-Bashir Receives YAR, PDRY Ministers *[Sanaa Radio]* 16
Accord Signed With Arab Industrial Body *[Omdurman Radio]* 16
Darfur Reconciliation Plan Implemented *[SUNA]* 16
Muslim Fundamentalists Win University Elections *[AFP]* 16
Government Forces Destroy 'Outlaws' Camps *[Omdurman Radio]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

PDRY

Troop Withdrawal Along Border Reported *[AFP]* 18

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Cuba *[WAKH]* 18

Yemen Arab Republic

Tunisia's Belaid Paves Way for Protocol Accord 18
Meets With 'Abd-al-Ghani *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Received by Planning Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Signs Cooperation Protocol *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Foreign Minister Leaves for Paris Conference *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
PDRY Minister Departs After Financial Meetings *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
PDRY's Salim Arrives for Meetings on Border *[Sanaa Radio]* 19

IRAQ

Further Reportage on Rocket, Missile Technology 20
'Not Meant for Aggression' *[INA]* 20
Ambassador on Program's Secrecy *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 20
Envoy Describes System *[PANA]* 20
Mubarak Congratulates Saddam *[INA]* 20
Mauritania Praises Launch *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Saddam Chairs Meeting, Discusses Budget, Issues *[INA]* 21
More on Visit of Tunisian President, Delegation 21
Saddam Issues Statement *[INA]* 21
Escheikh Meets With Hammadi *[INA]* 22
UNIIMOG Commander Jovic Arrives 13 Dec *[INA]* 22
Leaves Baghdad 20 Dec *[INA]* 22
Legal, Consulate Accord Signed With Turkey *[INA]* 22
Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Paris Euro-Arab Meeting *[INA]* 22
Dredging of Shatt al-Basrah Said Completed *[INA]* 22
Hammadi Receives Romanian Official, Message *[INA]* 23
Trade Minister Meets Cuban Friendship Official *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

Arens Wants Soviet Support for Arabs Toned Down *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Iran Deal Seen as Break in Muslim Solidarity *[HA'ARETZ 20 Dec]* 24
Shamir's Jordan Remark Called 'Irresponsible' *[AL-NAHAR 15 Dec]* 24
Jordan's Stability 'Clear Israeli Interest' *['AL HAMISHMAR 13 Dec]* 25
Visiting Polish Solidarity Leader Interviewed *[DAVAR 20 Dec]* 25
Ministry Reacts to Developments in Romania *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Firebomb at Romanian Embassy; Visas Stopped *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Hamas Leader's Trial Delayed; New Date Not Set *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Gaza Detainee Dies During Shin Bet Questioning *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
New Property Confiscation Order Issued *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

'Tougher' Measures Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Reopening of Universities in Territories Urged *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Police Set Up Antidrug Gendarmerie in Lebanon *[HA'ARETZ 20 Dec]* 27

JORDAN

Further Reportage on 'Arafat's Talks With Husayn 29
Middle East Crisis Discussed *[Amman Radio]* 29
'Arafat Discusses Topics *[Amman TV]* 29
'Arafat Concludes Visit, Departs *[Amman Radio]* 29
Abu-Sharif Comments *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 30
Badran Appointed to Senate; Bin-Shakir Resigns *[AL-RA'Y 21 Dec]* 30
Embezzlement Found in 4 Government Departments *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Dec]* 30

LEBANON

'Awn Comments on U.S. Operation in Panama *[VOL]* 31
Al-Hirawi Receives Message From Papal Nuncio *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Press Reports 'Secret Contacts' on Lebanon *[KUNA]* 31
'Arafat Plans To Alleviate 'Pressure' on 'Awn *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Defense Minister on Measures To Confront 'Awn *[RFL]* 32
Operation Against East Beirut From North Planned *[Nicosia AL-NASR 15 Dec]* 32
Minister Returns From Muscat, Comments *[Voice of National Resistance]* 32
Ibrahimi Meets With Al-Hirawi in Ablah *[Beirut Radio]* 32
Al-Huss Leaves To Attend Arab-European Dialogue *[Beirut Radio]* 32
Phalangist Leader Interviewed on Al-Ta'if *[London AL-TADAMUN 18 Dec]* 32

SYRIA

U.S. Aggression, 'Invasion' of Panama Noted *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Commentaries Continue To Assail 'Awn Presence 34
'Foundering' in 'Crazy War' *[Damascus Radio]* 34
People 'Have Had Enough' *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Newspaper Cited on Foundations of 'New Lebanon' *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Commentary on Double Standards in World Politics *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Khaddam, Red Cross Chairman Discuss Kidnapping *[Damascus TV]* 36
Al-Shar' in Paris for Euro-Arab Conference *[Damascus Radio]* 36
TISHRIN Notes Israeli Factor *[SANA]* 37
Ba'th Official Addresses University Conference *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Al-Ahmar, Nasirite Delegation Discuss Intifadah *[Damascus Radio]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Interviewed on Talks With U.S. Envoy *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Dec]* 39
Mujahidin Influence on East Bloc Upheaval Seen *[AFP]* 40
Mujahidin Kill KHAD Officer in Laghman Province *[Islamabad Radio]* 40
'Extremists' Launch Rockets at Kabul City 20 Dec *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Armed Forces Operations in Various Areas Detailed *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Mujahidin Capture 7 Posts, Down Transport Plane *[Islamabad Radio]* 41

India

Lok Sabha Raises 'U.S. Intervention in Panama' *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Intervention 'Deplored' *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Lok Sabha Discusses Vote of Confidence Motion *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Government Wins Vote of Confidence *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Gandhi on Cooperation With Government, Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Center Forced Release of 'Terrorists' *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Janata Dal Contests Gandhi Remarks on Kidnapping *[Delhi Radio]* 42

Finance Minister Holds First News Conference *[Delhi Radio]* 42
National Front Presidium Meets; Rao, Singh Speak *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Official Urges Measures To Curb Vote Rigging *[Delhi Radio]* 43

Iran

Commentary on U.S. 'Intervention' in Panama *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Foreign Ministry Condemns 'Invasion' *[Tehran TV]* 44
Cabinet Calls Act 'Terrorism' *[Tehran Radio]* 44
UK Reaction Reported *[IRNA]* 44
Further on Visit of Romanian President Ceausescu 45
Accord on Trade Exchange Planned *[IRNA]* 45
Ceausescu Lays Wreath at Tomb *[IRNA]* 45
Velayati Receives Foreign Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Agreements Concluded, Signed *[IRNA]* 46
Official Comments on Agreements *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Ceausescu, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comment *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Joint Communique on Visit Issued *[IRNA]* 47
'Official Visit' Ends *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Ministry Protests UK's Arrest of Students *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Austria Accused of Entering War of Embassies *[KEYHAN 4 Dec]* 49
Daily Says No Iran-Israel Ties Except 'Enmity' *[IRNA]* 49
Attack on Zaki Badr, Islamic Unrest Viewed *[Tehran International]* 50
Hungarian Deputy Minister Talks With Va'ezi *[Tehran Radio]* 50
President Sends Message to UAE President *[IRNA]* 50
Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Nurses Gathering *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Mohtashemi Responds to ETTELA'AT Questions *[12 Dec]* 51
Governor Generals Appointed for Mazandaran, Yazd *[Tehran TV]* 53
Interior Minister Presents New Yazd Governor *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Commentary Reviews GCC Summit, Peace Prospects *[Tehran Radio]* 53
UN Pressure on Iraq To Accept Resolution Urged *[TEHRAN TIMES 11 Dec]* 54
Paper on Ensuring Compliance With Resolution 598 *[TEHRAN TIMES 11 Dec]* 55

Pakistan

PRC Public Security Minister Wang Fang Arrives *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Bhutto Attends Dinner Hosted by PRC Ambassador *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Soviet, French Officers Comment on Army Exercise *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Press Note Reports Exchange of Fire in Karachi *[Islamabad Radio]* 56

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne Says India Must Honor Pullout Accord *[LANKAPUVATH]* 56
Rival Tamil Guerrilla Groups Clash, Killing 29 *[AFP]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council Summit Nears End

3d Closed Session Concludes

JN2012114289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states concluded their 3rd closed working session today. It has been learned that during this session that the GCC leaders focused on aspects of security, military, and economic cooperation.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY has said that 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, Omani information minister and official spokesman for the 10th GCC summit, and 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, GCC secretary general, will hold a news conference tomorrow, Thursday. During the news conference, they will deal with the most important issues discussed by the GCC leaders during the working sessions of their 10th summit.

Afternoon Session Held 20 Dec

JN2012185389 Manama WAKH in English 1555 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Foreign ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states held a working session here this afternoon under the chairmanship of Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah. The ministers are slated to draw up a formula for the final statement of the GCC's 10th session, which is scheduled to end tomorrow.

Panel To Prepare Communique

JN2012185489 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 20 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council concluded a session this evening under the chairmanship of the Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah.

Sources close to the ministers said that the ministers had assigned a committee to study resolutions and recommendations of the final communique of the 10th summit.

The foreign ministers will hold a meeting later today to continue discussing all political, economic and security matters to be raised to the GCC leaders in their final session, it was learned.

Omani Minister Comments

JN2012195189 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, ended their third session at noon today at the Khalij Oman Hall in the al-Bustan Palace Hotel in Muscat under the chairmanship of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, chairman of the 10th session of the Supreme Council.

The leaders discussed a number of issues dealing with the joint Gulf cooperation march, especially concerning military and security aspects.

After the session, Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, said their majesties and highnesses completed discussion of topics on the agenda of their 10th session. His excellency said the Ministerial Council will convene this evening.

On the other hand, His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas, minister of information and official spokesman of the summit, stated that His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id in his opening speech of the 10th session of the Supreme Council in Muscat had focused on international and political changes in the world. He indicated that these changes will be on a larger and more rapid scale than many expect. Their effects will be reflected on the international arena. [passage omitted]

Ministers To Finalize Statement

JN2112082889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The ministerial council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] began meeting a short while ago at the al-Bustan Palace Hotel in Muscat under the chairmanship of Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs and chairman of the current session.

The foreign ministers will be putting the final touches to the final statement which will be issued at the conclusion of the Muscat summit later today.

Final Meeting Ends 21 Dec

JN2112092889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Muscat, 21 Dec (WAKH)—The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] a short while ago concluded a working session in Muscat. During the session, the final communique and the Muscat statement were prepared. These will be presented to the final summit session, scheduled to be held at 1100 Bahrain time [0800 GMT]. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Algeria's Bendjedid Holds Talks With 'Arafat

JN1812171089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Palestinian President Brother Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algiers today on a short visit to Algeria, during which he will hold talks with Algerian President Chadli

Bendjedid and a number of senior Algerian officials. The talks will center on the latest developments in the Palestine question.

In a statement following his arrival, Brother Yasir 'Arafat said that the visit derives its importance from the current important changes in the Palestine question, including the escalation of the blessed popular intifadah inside the occupied territories in the face of the Zionist occupation and machinery of repression, and also from the current international political moves pertaining to the Palestine question, especially after the recent summit meeting held by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush in Malta and its effects on the Middle East issue.

'Arafat Greets Malaysian Palestinian Symposium

JN2012183089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Dec 89

["Text" of message by Yasir 'Arafat, "president of the state of Palestine," to a symposium by the Committee on the Palestinian People's Exercise of Their Inalienable Rights in Kuala Lumpur; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Sister ('Abla Kalib Yalu), chairwoman of the Committee on the Palestinian People's Exercise of Their Inalienable Rights, brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen. Greetings. On the occasion of the convening of your esteemed symposium in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, following a decision made by the Committee on the Palestinian People's Exercise of Their Inalienable Rights, I am pleased to extend to all of you, members and guests, on my own behalf, on behalf of my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and on behalf of our Palestinian people, our warm and hearty greetings and congratulations and sincere wishes for your symposium to succeed in achieving the objectives for which it was convened.

I take this opportunity to renew our high appreciation of the effective role and the major, significant efforts by the Committee on the Palestinian People's Exercise of Their Inalienable Rights to enable our Palestinian people achieve their freedom, independence, and sovereignty on the soil of their homeland. Please allow me also to extend many thanks to Malaysia for hosting this symposium. This confirms the support of Malaysia—king, government, and people—for our militant people and their legitimate national cause.

Brothers and sisters, ladies and gentleman: Your symposium is convening now after our people—together with the fraternal and friendly peoples and countries which support their legitimate national struggle—celebrated three important occasions. These occasions are: the first anniversary of the proclamation of Palestinian independence, the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, and the beginning of the 3d year of our people's intifadah.

While thanking all countries and peoples and free and good men in the world for their supportive stands, I declare to you that our people are determined to continue their legitimate struggle and their popular, valiant resistance—which they, strongly and confidently, are staging under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative—until the achievement of victory by ending the Israeli occupation of their territories and sacred places, and by regaining and exercising their national inalienable rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Brothers and sisters: Undoubtedly, you are closely following our people's tragic and grave circumstances under Israeli occupation. These circumstances are caused by the occupation forces' implementation—through their armed forces and the gangs of fanatic settlers—of the iron fist policy with the most modern weapons of savage destruction against our unarmed people. From this, the occupation authorities intend to break our people's spirit of national resistance, repress and obliterate their identity and legitimate rights, liquidate the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and maintain occupation.

As a result of this brutal, terrorist Israeli policy, over 1,000 Palestinians were martyred, 5,000 women had miscarriages, over 64,000 were detained, and over 47,000 were injured, including over 6,500 with permanent disabilities. This is in addition to the huge material losses, which have so far amounted to over $2 billion. However, despite the intensification of this repressive Israeli policy and despite their daily and immense sacrifices, our militant people are now more determined than ever before to continue their just militant march with a strong resolve and a unified, national will until they manage to terminate the occupation and achieve their national independence through the establishment of their independent state.

While waging their national liberation struggle and their blessed intifadah, our people are hopeful and confident that all the world peoples, states, friendly forces, and all those who cherish freedom, justice, and peace will increase their support and backing for them at this current, fateful stage. It is also hoped that the world will reiterate its support for the Palestinian people's brave peaceful initiative adopted by the extraordinary 19th session of the Palestine National Council. This peace initiative clearly affirms our people's desire to establish a just, lasting peace in our region through an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices to be attended by the five UN Security Council permanent member states and all parties involved in the dispute, including the PLO on an equal footing with other parties.

Sisters and brothers: The current situation has been exacerbated by Israel's aggressive, expansionist policy manifested by its constant rejection of all international peaceful initiatives. This situation further prolongs our

people's suffering as a result of the continuation of the Israeli occupation. This situation also endangers world peace and security. Hence, the entire international community is called upon to bring pressure to bear on the United States and Israel to force them to abide by the international will and legitimacy. Then all of us will be able to contribute to achieving the peace we seek, under which our people will be able to exercise their national, inalienable rights, to live in dignity like other peoples of the world, and contribute through their scientific and human resources toward the advancement of human civilization.

Finally, I reiterate my special greetings to you, wishing your distinguished seminar good luck and success.

Abu-'Ayyash on PLO Response, Ties With U.S.

TA1212154089 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 Dec 89 pp 12, 11

[Interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of Arab Journalists Association in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, by Hani Abu-Ghadib; date, place not give]

[Text] [Abu-Ghadib] Considering the announcement of Egypt's response, which the U.S. authorities have described as positive, could you describe the coming phase for us?

[Abu-'Ayyash] It seems that the Palestinian response, which was delivered by the Egyptian leadership to the U.S. side, falls within the Palestinian perspective just as the other political positions adopted by the PLO do. These positions conform with a sincere desire to activate the peace process, leading to the international conference at which the question of the Palestinian people's self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on their national soil will be determined. Therefore, the coming phase might fall into 2 categories.

The first one is optimistic, for it could result in acceptance by the U.S. secretary of state and the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers of the PLO's right to name the delegation, as the PLO alone is authorized to do so, in addition to leaving the door open for discussion of all topics relating to the Palestinian problem. As to the second category, it is pessimistic. This could produce more rigid positions, like the situation today, leading to impediments to the peace efforts.

[Abu-Ghadib] Since the outset, Egypt undertook not to adopt any position that is inconsistent with the Palestinian position. Did Egypt deviate from this approach with the recent response?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I am firmly convinced that from the outset the Palestinian-Egyptian relationship has been one of fraternal understanding and joint coordination, as it is today. Coordination between the the Egyptian and Palestinian positions is a Palestinian strategy within the framework of joint Arab cooperation. I do not believe Egypt would give a response that does not conform with the Palestinian tendency, although it has the right to express its own particular positions, just as the PLO has the same right.

[Abu-Ghadib] How long can the U.S. Administration ignore dealing directly with the PLO and keep dealing with Egypt as a proxy for the Palestinians?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I believe that the U.S. Administration is dealing directly and officially with the PLO by means of several official channels, particularly through the official dialogue with Robert Pelletreau, its ambassador to Tunis. But the U.S. Administration accepted the Egyptian response in lieu of the Palestinians because it wants to avoid Israel's anger, bearing in mind that the U.S. Administration received the same response directly from Brother Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestinian ambassador. But if the question is about the issue of upgrading and the usefulness of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, that is another matter. I believe that the level of the dialogue will definitely be raised and that the United States will find itself unable to do anything practical without approaching the PLO and talking officially with it on the highest levels, although right now this is not so.

[Abu-Ghadib] The Israeli news media are trying to drive a wedge between the national movement and Hamas by saying that time is working in favor of Hamas, and that a delay in the peace process will cause an increase in Hamas' power. What do you think about this?

[Abu-'Ayyash] The Palestinian people are a single indivisible unit, although there are different trends working to end the Israeli occupation. As far as we are concerned, the problem is not one of factions or movements. The problem is that of the Palestinian people, who are trying to liberate themselves from occupation and gain independence and the right to live in freedom and dignity in their homeland and on their own soil. Delaying the peace process is not in the interest of anyone, nor is it in the interest of the region. Rather, it might lead to a worse deterioration of the region's security. Hence, the question should be considered on the basis of what could result from the failure of the peace process. Fraternal cooperation between all factions in our land is something of which we are proud, and which is proof of a unified goal and destiny; namely, the establishment of a durable and just peace that guarantees our legitimate national rights.

Khalid al-Hasan on U.S. Visit, Delegation

JN2012112489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Khalid al-Hasan, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Palestine National Council, has stressed that the current circumstances are very delicate. He also has said that his visit to the United States is an attempt to understand how serious the United States is in its efforts to find a

political solution to the Palestinian people's cause during the era of international detente.

In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published here today, he said: No one can impose on the Palestinians the how's and why's of forming the Palestinian delegation. He pointed out that the formation of the delegation is the right of the Palestinians themselves.

Answering a question on Egypt's relations with the PLO, he said: Egypt does not do anything without consulting us. The PLO has closely coordinated with Egypt regarding the U.S. five points.

Answering another question on whether the PLO's acceptance of the five points means the death of the international conference idea, the Palestinian official rejected this and stressed that the international conference guarantees the success of a political solution. He said: So far, there has been no means better than the international conference.

Regarding the future of the intifadah 2 years after its eruption, Al-Hasan said: The intifadah has become part of the daily life of the Palestinian people. This intifadah has a political objective. Therefore, the Palestinian people will pursue it until their political objectives of ending the occupation and achieving independence are realized.

Jordanian-Palestinian Cooperation Reaffirmed

JN1912121689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Dec 89 pp 1, 20

[Text] Tunis—AL-RA'Y—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has said the democratic atmosphere now prevalent in Jordan has created an appropriate and sound framework for establishing the most solid relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. There is no doubt that the wisdom and farsightedness of His Majesty King Husayn will make the greatest contribution to closing the ranks to confront the Israeli intransigence and the schemes of Shamir and Sharon, schemes aimed at restoring a spirit of military adventure to the region and foiling peace efforts.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y yesterday, Abu-Sharif accused Shamir of deception and maneuvering to disrupt the efforts that are intended to find a political solution to the Middle East crisis.

The Israeli Government, Abu-Sharif said, is still maneuvering under the pretext of asking the United States for guarantees before the outset of negotiations. This is being done at a time when Shamir declares that he does not consider the West Bank and Gaza occupied areas, but rather liberated areas.

Abu-Sharif added: We consider the U.S. Administration morally, politically, and financially responsible for what will happen in the region. It is the one that provides Israel with arms and money, thereby ensuring some kind of cover for Shamir's stands.

We view the announcement of principles that was made by President Bush in May, and since frequently affirmed by Mr Baker, a positive stance because it has promised a U.S. commitment to ending the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. However, we think that this stance has not been translated into practical steps.

Of course, we hope that matters will move toward negotiations and implementing practical measures for the sake of halting the Israeli occupation forces' human rights violations, which are continuing on a daily basis.

We hope that full coordination with brotherly Jordan will be established in an effort to confront the enemy's obstinate stands and to convince the United States of the necessity of making rapid moves. A solution must be found quickly because the circumstances have grown very serious because of the terrorism Israel has organized against the Palestinian people.

Abu-Sharif went on to say: The resolution of our national council is frank and explicit regarding the joint destiny of Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. The resolution concerning the establishment of a confederation between the states of Palestine and Jordan represents what will crystallize this historic and fateful relationship.

Abu-Sharif affirmed that there are intensive efforts currently being exerted to utilize the Arab weight in the political battle, which is no longer governed by the balance of power but rather by a diligent balance of interwoven interests under the canopy of detente and cooperation between the two superpowers.

Islamic Jihad, Fatah Discuss Intifadah

NC1912083589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Representatives of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine and the Fatah Revolutionary Council held a meeting in Beirut yesterday. The two sides stressed the need to escalate the intifadah and consolidate the revolutionary course of struggle. The two sides also stressed the need to uproot those who betrayed their people and sold themselves to the enemy.

The two sides discussed ways to develop the intifadah and transform it into a popular armed struggle. They sent greetings to the strugglers in the occupied territories, expressed pride in their heroism, and congratulated them on the occasion of the intifadah's entering its 3d year.

Sha'th Reportedly To Meet Weizman in Bucharest

PM2012161189 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 19 Dec 89 p 12

[Unattributed report: "Romanian Arrangements for Sha'th-Weizman Talks"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned from informed circles in Cairo that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu is making contacts with Egypt, the PLO, and Israel to arrange a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Bucharest. The meeting will be used to discuss the possibility of overcoming obstacles hampering the peace process in the Middle East.

The circles have nominated 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli minister without portfolio, and Dr Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the head of the state of Palestine, for the mission. It is known that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat visited Bucharest and held talks with Ceausescu on the sidelines of the Romanian Communist Party Congress at the end of last month.

PLO Radio Assails Iran Over Israeli Oil Deal

JN2112105589 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1945 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Political commentary]

[Text] Tehran forgets, or pretends to forget, that the history of its relations with Israel is a long and exposed one. There always has been a network of interests and channels of cooperation between the two sides at all levels. This is a fact that cannot be obliterated by tough slogans against imperialism, Zionism, and so forth, which Tehran raises whenever there is an opportunity, and even when there is no opportunity. The latest practical embodiment of the Israeli-Iranian relations is the Iranian oil deal with Israel—$36 million for 2 million barrels of oil. Tehran says the Palestinian popular intifadah is its Islamic revolution against Israel. It does not seem to care about these 2 million barrels of oil, which fuel Israel's war arsenal and oppressive establishments and enable them to continue their violent repressive and brutal campaigns against the masses of our Palestinian Arab people and the masses of the valiant intifadah, of which Tehran claims to be its guardian and backer. However, this Iranian claim might be possible: Tehran wants the struggle to escalate, and therefore, it helps both sides of the struggle, supplying Israel with oil while supplying the intifadah with much verbal noise and great slogans.

But when the Iranian oil gets burned to operate Israel's oppressive war machine, it also burns Tehran's slogans and its false claims. As it turns into flames, it exposes Tehran's lies and fallacies, showing the extent of its contribution to the escalation of Israel's policy of oppression and murder against the sons of our heroic Palestinian people, the sons of the valiant intifadah.

Thus, the equation becomes balanced. There are no economic relations without joint political objectives and interests. When Tehran sells oil to Israel, it does not merely conclude a commercial deal with no political implications; rather, it strengthens certain existing political, economic, and military relations and opens further channels for cooperation and joint action to achieve common goals.

Tehran never will be able to claim the opposite of these firm and tangible rules, which constantly characterize any bilateral relations between any two countries. In other words, any economic relations between any two sides definitely reflect joint political understanding and reveal common goals; it is not merely a question of selling and buying. The Iranian verbal furor will never be useful to suppress this fact—the fact of continued Iranian-Israeli relations. These relations, however, will never help Tehran overcome its devastating defeat—the defeat that also will hit its Israeli ally sooner or later.

Algeria

Government Expresses Concern Over U.S. Action

LD2012211689 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Algeria has heard with great concern the news of the U.S. military intervention in Panama. It regrets that a superpower, which shoulders a special responsibility in upholding world peace and security, has used force to settle a dispute with a sovereign country. Algeria calls for an end to such an intervention because disputes should be solved through peaceful means. It hopes, furthermore, that the Panamanian people will freely decide its future.

Egypt

Further Reportage on PRC President's Visit

Paper Praises Ties With PRC

NC1912085289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0713 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper has described PRC President Yang Shangkun's visit to Egypt as an embodiment of the historic ties between the two countries which have existed since the 1950's. In an article today, the paper says that the historic friendship between Egypt and the PRC has been emphasized over past years and their views on political issues and international affairs have been close. The paper notes the PRC's support for the Palestinian people's right to regain their land and establish their independent state. On the bilateral level, relations between the two countries have achieved a high rate of development. The paper notes the status Egypt enjoys in Africa and the PRC's status in Asia.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the timing of the PRC's president's visit to Egypt is important in view of his country's special weight in the United Nations. The visit also coincides with the crucial stage the peace efforts in the Middle East have reached. It is now necessary for the five big powers to intensify their efforts to persuade the Israeli Government to heed the voice of reason represented by the international community and immediately begin meeting Palestinians in a dialogue that may prepare the way for a comprehensive and just solution.

Holds 'Expanded' Talks With Mubarak

NC1912100289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0909 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and PRC President Yang Shangkun held an expanded session of talks following a 45-minute private meeting. Attending the meeting on the Egyptian side were Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, industry minister and head of the escort delegation; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz, finance minister; Dr Zakariya 'Azmi, presidency secretry general; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secrtary and director of the president's office for political affairs; Ambassador Yusuf Shararah, assistant foreign minister; and Badr Hammam, Egyptian ambasador to the PRC. Attending the talks on the Chinese side were Wang Bingqian, state councillor and minister of finance; Qi Huaiyuan, vice minister of foreign affairs; Lu Xuejian, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade; and Zhan Shiliang, PRC ambassador in Cairo.

Yang Shangkun, Mubarak on Relations

NC1912152089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1250 GMT 19 Dec 89

[From "The World on the Air" program]

[Text] Chinese President Yang Shangkun will hold a news conference at al-Qubbah presidential palace at 1700 today in which he will review the results of his talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Cairo and the steps that have been taken to bolster cooperation between Cairo and Beijing.

Today President Mubarak and Chinese President Yang Shangkun inaugurated the new conferences hall at Nasr city, as a symbol of Egyptian-Chinese relations and friendship.

Our colleague Khalil al-Juhayni reports from there after the inauguration ceremony.

[Begin recording] [Al-Juhayni] Your Excellency, president of China, what is your comment on this cultural achievement between our noble Egyptian and Chinese peoples?

[Yang Shangkun, in Mandarin with simultaneous Arabic translation] I believe that this major project is an example of the existing friendship and cooperation between our Chinese and Egyptian peoples. This is the fruit of the Chinese-Egyptian cooperation. It is a symbol of our relations. These relations will be constantly developed. I salute the friendly Egyptian people.

[Al-Juhayni] Thank you, Mr President. [end recording]

Meanwhile, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak commented on his talks with the Chinese president today. He said:

[Begin Mubarak recording] Our relations with China are old, good, and intimate ones. We constantly exchange views on various issues. They are among the parties that support the Palestinian cause and other regional causes. We regard them as close friends of Egypt and the Arabs. In our talks today, we discussed all issues. We exchanged views on the Middle East issue. Their stand on the Palestinian issue has not changed. It is a constant stand. They are people with principles which do not change. I

believe we are in agreement on all moves, or at least there is great similarity, indeed an identity of views perhaps, regarding various issues.

As to bilaterial relations, they are proceeding as best they can between any two countries. There is constant cooperation. The president has invited me to visit China next year. I will accept this invitation next year on a date which we will agree upon, God willing. China is a very important country. Chinese-Egyptian relations are very important to the two peoples. [end recording]

Speaks at Inauguration Ceremony

NC1912155489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Chinese President Yang Shangkun delivered a speech at the inauguration ceremony of the Cairo International Conference Center in which he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend the inauguration of this huge center that is another example of the cooperation between China and Egypt.

He said that this center represents a splendid artistic achievement and has a major practical value that will certainly be useful for social and international functions in Egypt.

Yang expressed appreciation for the care and support from President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government in the process of building the center. He also thanked the Egyptian and Chinese architects and technicians who participated in designing and building the project.

In his speech, the Chinese president referred to the Egyptian and Chinese peoples' shining history, their cultural contributions, and their current role in furthering the quest for peace, development, and the maintenance of international peace.

He said that both China and Egypt are developing countries and their cooperation is part of the South-South cooperation. He noted that, although the extent of their cooperation is not extensive, it is sincere and based on mutual respect and consequently is very vital.

He asserted that China believes that assistance cannot be a unilateral process but takes the form of mutual support among friendly states.

The Chinese president referred to the close ties that have linked the two countries for 33 years and emphasized that throughout this period they maintained their constant cooperation regardless of the changes in the international scene.

Holds News Conference

NC1912214289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Chinese President Yang Shangkun praised the development of relations between Egypt and China in various spheres. He extended a greeting to the great Egyptian people and President Husni Mubarak for the hospitality and warm welcome which he has been accorded since he arrived in Egypt.

In a news conference held at his place of residence at al-Qubbah palace this evening, the Chinese president said that he is seizing this opportunity to express thanks to the Egyptian Government and people under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak. He voiced hope that his current visit to Egypt will help boost and develop bilateral cooperation in various spheres and strengthen the bonds of friendship between the Egyptian and Chinese peoples.

The Chinese president also commended Egypt's efforts to establish a just peace in the Middle East and said that China, which is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, supports these efforts at all international forums. He said that China also supports all the efforts and endeavors to find a just political solution to the Middle East crisis.

The Chinese president asserted that his country supports all the concerned parties in carrying out any dialogue they deem appropriate. He added that China appreciates the active efforts that Egypt, the PLO, and other peace-loving countries are making to embark on such a dialogue that serves the peace process.

On prospects for Chinese-Israeli diplomatic relations, the Chinese president explained that his country constantly advocates the right of all Middle Eastern countries to exist, including the Palestinians. He said that the development of Chinese-Israeli relations hinges on developments in the Middle East situation and on changes in Israeli positions. He noted that he had explained China's attitude during his talks yesterday and today with President Husni Mubarak.

Yang Shangkun said that, as everyone knows, China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and Israel also has a representative at the United Nations and consequently there is sometimes a need to carry out contacts, within the UN framework, between the Chinese and Israeli representatives. He added: In the practical sphere we have activities and exchanges with Israel. There is also an Israeli popular academy, which operates as such, and not as an official institution.

The Chinese president expressed hope that Israel will change its hardline stand and said: We might consider establishing diplomatic ties with Israel if it changes its hardline stand and contributes to the peace efforts. Currently, however, there are no official ties between China and Israel.

Yang Shangkun declared: We support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish an independent state. As you know, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has excellent relations with China and when he proclaimed the Palestinian state, China promptly recognized it, being among the first of the more than 100 countries which have recognized the Palestinian state.

The Chinese president emphasized that China's economy underwent a big development in the past 10 years as a result of the application of the policy of economic reforms and open doors and that the standard of living of the people has largely improved.

The Chinese president said: We are developing our economy in state. The first stage seeks to solve the problem of clothing and food. The per capita income from the national production has reached 4,400 annually.

The president added: In the second stage we seek to double the per capita income to reach 4,800 annually. Although this is considered a modest average compared to the world's averages, we must not disregard the difficulties which a big country like China, which has a population of 1.1 billion—that is one-fifth of the world's population—faces.

The Chinese president referred to last June's events in Tiananmen Square in Beijing saying: Some attempt to exploit the climate of reform and development in China to create intellectual confusion and threaten stability. What happened in Tiananmen Square in Beijing last June was rebellion against the revolution. It started with a petition submitted by the students and developed into boisterous demonstrations and the occupation of Tiananmen Square in the heart of Beijing. All of these events lasted only 48 days.

President Yang Shangkun added: These regrettable incidents had adverse effects on the Chinese economy and led to some losses, particularly with respect to the policy of investment and economic openness.

President Yang Shangkun pointed out that foreign investments began flowing into China after the declaration of the open door policy. He pointed out that there are now in China joint firms with other states, purely foreign investments, and a firm which imports raw material from abroad and exports its products abroad.

The PRC president said that all these foreign institutions and foreign and joint investment have played a positive role and contributed to development in the PRC.

The PRC president said that some Chinese citizens who worked with these institutions were influenced by foreign rumors that were spread at the time and that do not reflect the real life in China, and the results were the regrettable events in Tiananmen Square.

The PRC president criticized the positions of certain foreign governments who supported the events in Tiananmen Square, saying that these countries have formed their positions on inaccurate information. Therefore, these positions constitute a flagrant interference in China's internal affairs.

President Yang Shangkun said that despite the hostile stands by a few countries, businessmen and investors from these countries continue to conduct business in China.

The Chinese president criticized the governments which imposed economic sanctions on China, saying that these sanctions are misguided, for they are based on inaccurate information. He reiterated that China is a free and independent country that does not allow anyone to interfere in its internal affairs.

The PRC president said that there will be no change in the open door policy, adding that this policy is not aimed solely at the liberal Western nations but also applies to the Third World and the less developed nations. He noted that China has established projects of cooperation with Third World countries.

President Yang Shangkun said that the negative repercussions of last June's events are diminishing and that the people of China are concentraing their efforts on developing the country's economy.

Concerning the issue of Taiwan, the Chinese president said that the PRC Government [words indistinct] the motherland, adding that there is no doubt that Taiwan is part of China's land. He said that there are some positive signs for unity, saying that the Chinese Government has made efforts in this direction. He mentioned that over the past few years there has been movement of people and goods between the two countries. The Chinese president said that his government encourages such movement, but Taiwan is imposing restrictions and allows the movement of people and goods only on a very limited scale.

The Chinese president said that Taiwan should return to the motherland and that his country will never allow [lan tasmah] the independence of Taiwan.

Meets With Prime Minister Sidqi

NC2012100989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0917 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—PRC Leader Yang Shangkun received Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi in the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah this morning. Following the meeting, Dr Sidqi said that they exchanged views on bilateral relations and reviewed political developments in the two countries and the existing cooperation between them, particularly economic projects and the readiness of both countries to expand this cooperation. He said that the PRC president reviewed his country's important experience in linking the activities of the public and private sectors and planning and market activities, noting that this has not been an easy

experience. Dr Sidqi explained the political and economic developments in Egypt.

He concluded his statement by saying that they also reviewed the current developments in West Europe aimed at the establishment of a unified European market by the end of 1992, as well as developments in East Europe.

Meets With Assembly Speaker

NC2012113389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Following his meeting with PRC President Yang Shangkun today, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub stated that the meeting was extremely useful. He said that discussions had dealt with the two countries' efforts to achieve development and progress. He pointed out that the PRC president emphasized the need for cooperation between Egypt and the PRC to achieve social development and bolster common interests and world peace.

Concludes Official Visit 21 Dec

NC2112092389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] PRC President Yang Shangkun was given an official farewell at al-Qubbah Presidential Palace this morning at the end of a 3-day official visit to Egypt. During his visit he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the means of strengthening bilateral relations and on international issues of common interest.

Following the ceremonies, the PRC president went to Alexandria for a private 3-day visit.

President Mubarak and the PRC president held a final round of talks before the latter's departure from Cairo.

Togolese Foreign Minister Ends 2-Day Visit

NC1912094489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0848 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Yaovi Adodo, Togolese foreign minister and chairman of the OAU six-member committee for resolving the Senegal-Mauritania dispute, left Cairo this morning following a 2-day visit. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

NC1912140389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul arrived in Cairo from Khartoum this afternoon on a 1-day visit to Egypt.

'Ali Sahlul, who will leave for Paris tomorrow to attend the Arab-European dialogue conference due to begin there on Thursday, stated that this conference is especially important because it represents the first session of the new dialogue between the two sides since it was suspended in the late 1970's.

The Sudanese foreign minister stressed the need to rearrange affairs between the Arab countries and Europe in this context. He welcomed President Husni Mubarak's proposal to hold an Arab summit to adopt an Arab stand vis-a-vis the EC's united position in 1992.

Commenting on the issue of southern Sudan, Sahlul said that Egyptian-Sudanese contacts are under way to hold a meeting between the Sudanese Government and John Garang's rebel movement. He asserted that efforts are constantly being made to attain reconciliation between the Sudanese Government and John Garang's movement.

He added that agreement was reached during the recent conference between the delegations of the Sudanese Government and Garang's movement in Nairobi to hold a constitutional conference and to regard this conference's resolutions as a basis for future dialogue between the two sides.

On developments in southern Sudan, 'Ali Sahlul affirmed that the Sudanese Armed Forces have succeeded in crushing the rebellion, particularly in Blue Nile Province. He added that the Sudanese forces now control the town of Rumbek.

On Sudanese-Chadian relations, 'Ali Sahlul said that Sudan has no ambitions toward Chad and does not meddle in its internal affairs.

On ties with Ethiopia, the Sudanese foreign minister said that efforts are under way to restore these ties to their previous level and to find solutions to the problems between the two countries.

Ahmad Khalil, director of the Sudan office at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and the staff of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo received the Sudanese foreign minister at the airport.

Iraqi President To Visit in 'Near Future'

NC1912082789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will visit Egypt in the near future at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. They agreed on this during a telephone conversation President Mubarak held with Iraqi President Husayn this morning. They also reviewed the situation and a number of Arab issues and discussed topics of concern to the two fraternal countries.

'Abd-al-Majid on Arab-European Dialogue

NC1912161789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1506 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Paris, 19 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt welcomed President

Mitterrand's call as an important step to revive Arab-European dialogue after a suspension of many years.

In statements to a number of Egyptian reporters at the Egyptian Embassy in Paris today, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that Arab-European relations are special and represent numerous political, economic, and cultural aspects that are nurtured by geographical and historic links and European-Arab ties over the years.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that major changes are currently taking place and that the French initiative expresses the feeling that every Arab and European has regarding the need for dialogue and consultations.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We believe that the duration of the dialogue conference will not permit the discussion of details. He said the discussions will revolve instead around main policies and remarked that meetings will be held later to boost the dialogue and lay the foundations for future contacts. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the arrangements for the Arab-European dialogue, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said if the number of committees is determined according to their specializations and meeting dates, the hope will be greater of having a serious discussion and seeking to attain new policies. He stressed, however, that time is short and will not permit detailed discussions.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid is due to hold several bilateral meetings with a number of foreign ministers to review relations between their countries and Egypt.

The Egyptian foreign minister said Egypt appreciates the EEC's support for it in numerous economic fields that were represented by agreements between the European Investment Bank and the Egyptian Government.

Ambassador Says Ghali's Illness Under Control

NC2012182989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1751 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 20 Dec (MENA)—Ahmad Sidqi, Egyptian ambassador to France, has stated that medical tests carried out on Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, in Paris today prove that doctors have succeeded in completely controlling the ailment from which Ghali is suffering and that there is no need for him to undergo surgery.

Ambassador Sidqi noted that Dr Ghali will begin a period of recuperation this weekend which will last for 10 days.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement on Panama Situation

LD2012140289 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA about the U.S. invasion of Panama. He said:

I could not find a phrase in the dictionary by which I could describe the degree of my anger at the barbarism of the state terrorism and the megalomania which made Hulagu, Nero, and Hitler look like angels in comparison with the Western Mongols and Nazis, the Americans and their allies.

The leader added: Faced with this barbarism, I cannot but call on all the small nations to unite immediately and prepare themselves for resistance. History never told us that arrogance continued and became victorious. On the contrary, it told us that the rights of the people eventually would win, and that survival is for the fittest and not for the strongest, otherwise the dinosaurs would have prevailed.

Urges USSR To Assume 'Obligations'

LD2012185489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received in audience the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, whom he charged with a message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the U.S. invasion of Panama. The brother leader has urged the Soviet Union to assume its international obligations, and warned it of the U.S. violation of all agreements with the Soviet Union.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Views U.S. 'Aggression'

LD2012205489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] [no dateline as received] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation issued the following communique on U.S. aggression in the Republic of Panama:

The Republic of Panama was subjected early this morning to a military aggression by U.S. Armed Forces stationed in this small country, backed by new forces and reinforcements.

The White House and President Bush personally affirmed that this aggression was launched on orders from the U.S. President under hollow excuses and justifications which cannot justify the perpetration of an armed aggression against an independent state in order to topple the regime in place there and replace it with a regime to serve the interests of the aggressor and its imperialist objectives.

It is clear to all, without any need for stressing or recalling anything, that this aggression is a clear and obvious violation of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law and all international standards. It is further proof emphasizing the correct conceptions of the Great Jamahiriyah and its clear position to the presence of military bases and foreign forces in the territories of other states or near these territories, and the danger and direct threat that this presence represents to the security of these states, their independence, and their safety.

The Jamahiriyah has in the past repeatedly warned against this danger even before it was itself subjected to the vicious U.S. Atlanticist aggression in mid-April 1986. It has remained in the same position in its eagerness to see the establishment of a genuine and firm international peace based on justice, balance, and respect for the options of peoples to self-determination and the future these peoples see for themselves, not what is imposed on them by others.

This aggression offers a fresh and vivid proof to the policy of state terrorism practiced by the U.S. Administration, with all the meaning of the word. It is not the first of its kind, nor will be the last of its kind as long as the world remains a spectator to this dangerous imperialist behavior which threatens all states and peoples struggling to maintain their freedom and sovereignty, and rejecting a life of humiliation, subservience, and imperialist hegemony.

We do not believe that we need to go far to prove this as the last few years can provide us with much proof to the policy of terror that the U.S. Administration has been practicing toward the developing countries. Most prominent among this is its invasion of Grenada at the end of 1983, and its failed military aggression against Libya in mid-April 1986.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] again warns international opinion against the danger to international peace and safety represented by the policy of the U.S. Administration, and the threat of this policy to the peoples of the developing countries. The SPLAJ expresses once more its strong condemnation of the military aggression perpetrated by this administration against the Republic of Panama. The SPLAJ calls on all states and international organizations to stand firm and with all their capabilities against this dangerous line which constitutes a serious flaw in relations between states, and disdain to international conventions and standards.

International Center's Statement

LD2112111489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli 21 Dec (JANA)—The Political Secretariat of the International Center for Combatting Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, and Fascism held an emergency meeting last night which included the representatives of the liberation movements, progressive parties and organizations, and a number of member countries of the International Center.

The meeting discussed the dimensions of the United States imperialist invasion of Panama.

After the meeting, the International Center issued a statement which included the following:

As they follow the current events in Panama, the constituent forces of the International Center for Combatting Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, and Fascism declare their condemnation of the shameful aggressive action committed by the United States, in which it used all the tools of war and means of destruction against the Panamanian people and leadership under illogical, unreasonable, flimsy excuses and pretexts.

The U.S. aggression against the Panamanian people and leadership does not, in essence and form, differ at all from its aggression against the people and leadership of Grenada.

The United States, as the leader of international terrorism, is still practicing its ugly and shameful role while bragging to the peoples of the world that it is the leader of the free world. It is even escalating its aggressive imperialist role by trying to put a hireling government in power in Panama, and trying to kill the Panamanian leadership who wanted to liberate Panama from the U.S. hegemony and to control their own resources, with the Panama Canal in the forefront.

The progressive forces in the world are called upon to take a serious stand vis-a-vis the events taking place in Panama, because the sequence of the imperialist aggression will continue. Recently it was Grenada and today it is Panama, and tomorrow there will be another victim of the imperialist terorism backed by megalomania. The small nations should manifest their fateful unity and reaffirm it (?in the arena) of collective struggle, now that the international organizations' failure in carrying out their role and total incapability to confront the U.S. arrogance everywhere in the world have been reaffirmed. The U.S. aggression against the Panamanian people and their national leadership is yet another addition to the black record of the United States. The peoples of Japan, Vietnam, Palestine, Grenada, Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Great Jamahiriyah still remember U.S. attacks on them before their very eyes, and within an earshot of all international organizations and bodies, a matter which confirms the true identity of the United States—to continue to practice domination, violence and force against all peaceful small nations. The finding of a new formula for the collective struggle of the small and oppressed nations is the only choice which guarantees the right of these nations to live on this earth and under the sun. We declare our solidarity with the people and leadership of Panama in confronting the imperialist U.S. aggression and to implement their choices and establish their sovereignty on their land.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Islamic Gathering

LD2012173189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Dec, Arab Maghreb Union Pool (JANA)—Yesterday morning, the brother leader of the revolution attended part of the meeting of the provisional secretariat of the World Islamic Popular Leadership, which the day before yesterday began its proceedings by laying down the scientific foundations and necessary rules to start unified Islamic action and taking practical steps for the proclamation of the emergence of the World Islamic Popular Leadership.

In his address, the brother leader of the revolution welcomed the participants in the meeting of this secretariat—scholars, theoreticians, and leaders of Islamic activities—who have come from the various parts of the world.

The brother leader of the revolution said: We welcome you once again to Tripoli and, thank God, there have been no obstacles worth mentioning since our first meeting at al-Bayan al-Awwal, in Banghazi, although some hostile circles made moves after our meeting and U.S. intelligence held an Islamic conference in the United States in an attempt to find a counteraction to the outcome of the Banghazi conference.

The brother leader of the revolution told the conference that on their behalf he had sent a cable to the French president, asking him to intervene to protect hundreds of thousands of Muslim female students, who were being subjected to harrasments and threats of expulsion from French universities.

In his address, the brother leader of the revolution wondered about the human rights of which the Europeans boast, and said: We consider what happened to the Muslim female students in France as religious and racial oppression by the French authorities.

The brother leader of the revolution noted that the Arab Libyan information media have carried the text of the cable he sent to the French president, explaining that the French authorities have reimposed the ban on the Libyan military equipment in France following that cable and so far have refused to deliver the Libyan military equipment as a result of that cable. The brother leader of the revolution said the Great Jamahiriyah had to shoulder the consequences resulting from its stands on Muslim issues all over the world. The brother leader of the revolution said the French authorities have considered this question an internal affair that concerns France alone. He said: We have informed France that despite its boasting about human rights and turning the whole world upside down in the name of these rights, it is interfering in the affairs of another state and imposing sanctions on it in the name of human rights, which it uses as a pretext for interference in the affairs of others.

The brother leader of the revolution declared once again that to the West, human rights means the rights of the pro-Western groups that practice agentry, exploitation, hostility toward peoples, and calling for links with the West. Those are the groups that have freedom and rights, according to the Western perception.

The brother leader of the revolution explained that he has asked the French president whether expelling hundreds of thousands of Muslim students and persecuting them in France, and my objection to that in the name of the World Islamic Popular Leadership, would constitute interference in the internal affairs of France. He added that they have regarded my message to them as personal and bilateral. However, I told them that the message was not personal or bilateral, but was an international message in which I spoke in the name of all Muslims whose leaders have gathered in Banghazi and have unified their word. The reaction of the French authorities was to impose a ban on the Libyan aircraft originally bought from France and being repaired there. They have so far refused to deliver them to us.

The brother leader of the revolution called for the unification of all Muslims' efforts regarding their enemies. We asked that this cable, which was sent to the French president in your name, be published in all Islamic information media and in the mosques so that pressure will be brought to bear on France from all parts of the Islamic world to take its hands off the oppression of Muslims in France an to ensure that the Muslims have one word and one stand.

In his address, the brother leader of the revolution touched on the conditions of the Muslims in Bulgaria and told members of the provisional secretariat of the World Islamic Leadership. As you know, Muslims in Bulgaria have been allowed to leave for Turkey. However, the political situation in Bulgaria is not stable yet and it is difficult at this stage to reach an understanding with the Bulgarians until they settle on one system or another.

Then the brother leader went on to talk about the Muslims in the Soviet Union referring to the existence of an article in the Soviet Constitution which stipulates that every Soviet citizen has to propagate atheism and work against religion. But under the cover of political openness and a time of tolerance toward the religions existing now in the Soviet Union, thousands of Jews have been allowed to emigrate to occupied Palestine, although this is not their country. He indicated that there are Russian tribes who embraced Judaism and who have nothing to do with Palestine. We say, therefore, that the Muslims in the Soviet Union also must be relieved of injustice and oppression, and granted their full rights.

Regarding the situation of Muslims in Yugoslavia, the leader said: During the Belgrade conference [of the Nonaligned Movement], I visited the main mosque there. I had a discussion with a number of Muslims and discovered that their situation was improving, but they need tremendous aid. We joined our efforts to theirs until we obtained a plot of land to build an Islamic

institute and a mosque, indicating that the material support for the Muslims will play an important role in highlighting the Islamic characteristics and in giving Muslims the opportunity to be educated and work.

The brother leader also stressed that the Muslim communities present outside the Islamic world are living below the poverty line, indicating that despite the poverty in which the Chinese people live, they still managed to manufacture the hydrogen bomb. The leader added: When we asked the Chinese how they managed to manufacture the hydrogen bomb despite their obvious poverty, they said that they had collected one dinar from every citizen until they ammassed a billion dinars, which they used to manufacture that bomb. He went on to say: We, the Muslims, must do as the Chinese people and collect from ever Muslim one dinar until we accumulate a fortune that we can invest and spend on the Muslims. There also are a billion Muslims, just like China's population, but economic institutions are needed to collect this billion and invest it to turn it into billions. Therefore, we ought to seize this opportunity and be the economic body of the Islamic world.

The brother leader of the revolution pointed out that Muslims differ from others because the Islamic religion obliges Muslims to give alms on religious and social occasions, to perform prayers and give alms. He pointed out that alms and giving donations to charities is mentioned repeatedly in the Koran, and if we began to collect these we would have a huge budget out of which we could establish banks and economic establishments to be administered and used by Muslim ulema. The brother leader reaffirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah is a free Islamic state that does not yield to any external international pressures. As a free, revolutionary, Islamic country, it can undertake this historic action and shoulder its responsibilities regarding this duty the way you deem fit. The brother leader said: When I sent a message to the French president, none of you endured a boycott or anything else, but Libya as a state lost a number of Mirage aircraft which it was going to take delivery of and now the delivery has been stopped.

The brother leader of the revolution pointed out that the Comoros, as a state and not as a group, now is being subjected to an obvious French conspiracy led by Bob Denard, a French intelligence officer, with the support and means of the French Government and on orders from the latter. He added that President Ahmed Abdallah paid with his life for the French conspiracy that returned him to power to make him a dummy in its hand. The brother leader said that it has become clear to those who cannot see beyond the tips of their noses, who claim that France enabled Ahmed Abdallah to return to the Comoros and topple the regime of Suwaylah [diminutive term used as an insult to the Salah regime] that France did not do what it did for the sake of Ahmed Abdallah, nor of the Comoros, but in order to make Ahmed Abdallah and the Comoros regime a dummy in its hand since France had done him a favor by restoring him to power in the Comoros. The brother leader of the revolution reaffirmed that any person who is restored to power by colonialism or installed as a ruler in his own country by the colonialists cannot be regarded as ruler. He is a dummy in the hands of those who have installed him. This became clear through what has taken place and is taking place in a number of African and Latin American states: toying with regimes and successive coups thanks to colonialist and Western colonialist intelligence services' interference.

The brother leader of the revolution pointed out that this means that France is playing the regimes game in Africa. Add to this the fact that its military bases are spread in a number of African states, despite the fact that a number of these states are Islamic countries—such as the Senegal, Chad, and the Comoros—but are occupied by the French forces stationed there so that when it is necessary, the regimes in those countries can be changed, as in the cases when regimes were changed in Niger, Central Africa, and Chad more than once. The brother leader of the revolution asked about the curent position of Muslims in India following the change in the regime in which the National Congress Party has become the opposition. The leader said that following this change in India, massacres took place in the Comoros at the hands of the French forces, and the victims were Muslims. He reaffirmed that France, like any colonialist state, falsifies the facts and formulates them according to its colonialist liking. France claims that the island of Mayotte—an island in the Comoros—is part of France. This confirms France's colonialist logic. The same thing applies to France's claim that the Reunion Islands—which are located east of Africa—are an indivisible part of France. This is the same colonialist logic according to which France used to claim that Algeria was an indivisible part of French soil.

The brother leader pointed out that Mitterrand himself, when he was an interior minister, used to torture Algerian revolutionaries in the French jails, and used to regard them as rebels and outlaws because they wanted to cede that part of France that was Algeria. The brother leader reaffirmed that we should not keep silent about the tragedy of the Muslims in the Comoros. An extensive campaign should be launched in the Islamic world by way of concentrating the efforts of all the world's Muslims. He pointed out that the Great Jamahiriyah, as an Islamic state, has activated the OAU and requested the convening of the Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement, as well as informing the United Nations of the issue on account that the Comoros is a member-country of these organizations. The brother leader said that the other Islamic governments have not moved as you would have expected because orders come from the United States and France, and as long as the United States and France are doing this we cannot ask the Islamic governments to move against them because the majority of Islamic governments are lackeys of the United States and France.

In his address, the brother leader called on the ulema, thinkers, and popular activists to establish a real and

permanent Islamic action through the project now presented for study. He pointed out the necessity of adhering to what would be agreed upon and for Muslims to accept their consequences, exactly as Libya does.

He said: We do not regret these consequences we bear because of our stances. On the contrary, we consider them a price for the Jihad, for the benefit of Muslims everywhere in the world.

The brother leader stressed that this Islamic project will be a target for conspiracies, similar to what happened after the Banghazi conference, when an Islamic conference was held in the United States and was attended, perhaps in good faith, by some Islamic groups. However, the aim of that conference was to find a counteraction to the results of the Banghazi conference. He pointed out that that conference was under the supervision of the U.S. intelligence service. He wondered: How could any Islamic action be constructed under the U.S. flag? He stressed that this is rejected and unacceptable.

The brother leader added: If that conference really was an Islamic one, then the United States, which is the real enemy of Islam, would not have allowed it. He pointed out that the real Jihad means Jihad against the United States and the Zionist enemy, which is a United States state in the Middle East.

He said: The United States never can allow any real Islamic cohesion unless it is suitable to it. Therefore, it becomes worthless. He wondered how could this be an Islamic action if it is suitable for the United States.

The leader added: The Muslim who goes to the United States and asks for its help, claiming that he is a member of an opposition movement, a revolutionary, or a mujahid, is not a Muslim because he has sold himself to the devil. He cannot be treated as a Mulsim. His blood cannot be considered Muslim blood and should be shed with impunity because he has forsaken Islam and because the Jews and Christians have become his masters. This is written in the Koran.

The brother leader stressed that through its agents, the United States will move against the unity of the Muslims because it wants to see Muslim unity only under the U.S. flag, and chooses the atheists and sinners who carry out this work so that Islamic unity comes into the service of imperialism and Zionism.

The brother leader of the revolution indicated that the Islamic world cannot be led by those agents because then it would be at the service of the United States and Zionism, pointing out that the so-called Islamic Liberation Front was created by the English and Zionist intelligence services in 1948 to absorb the Johad movement in Palestine and hamper it under the pretext that the Jihad is unacceptable before the advent of the caliphate.

The leader also remarked that the English and the Jews in 1948 knew that the return of the caliphate was impossible in the forseeable future, at least not within several decades. He then said indeed, several decades have passed and no caliphate has been established, no caliph has been installed, and the Jihad has not been allowed. All those who wanted to go to Palestine at that time needed permission from the Islamic Liberation Front, and after those people joined that party and decided to go to Palestine, they were told that it was unacceptable before the advent of the caliphate. Since then they have been planning the establishment of a caliphate and the installation of a caliph. This is a myth we cannot rely on because it is a mere intelligence plot orchestrated by the Jews and the Christians against Islam and the Jihad and against the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine..

The brother leader of the revolution then stated that what has really happened is that Jerusalem has become the capital of the Jews and Palestine has not been liberated, indicating that the caliphate ended with the killing of 'Ali Ibn-Abi Talib [Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law]. Everything after that were mere (?imitations) aimed at exploiting the Islamic world and achieving power, domination, and glory.

The leader also pointed out that the Ummayad dynasty, which was set up after the killing of 'Ali Ibn-Abi Talib, was an absolute monarchy which had absolutely no caliphate in it. The same applied to the Abassid dynasty, which followed. All Muslims know this, as the caliphate and the Shura [religious consultative council] do not exist.

The brother leader of the revolution added that the Ottoman state, which professed to be the caliphate, used and exploited that to dominate the Islamic world. The leader then wondered: How can anyone be the caliph of the Muslims if they cannot read the Koran and do not even know the language in which it was revealed? The fallacious nature of this reality was brought to light by Kamal Ataturk when he ruled Turkey, as he said: "I am the ruler of Turkey and I do not understand anything in Islam and I do not know its language. Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid is a hypocrite who rides a horse and performs the Friday prayers to distract the world's attention away from him."

The brother leader of the revolution added: If we want to return to the idea of the caliphate now, we will fall again into the same drawbacks that existed before, as we will once again see the return of the warring factions, which will enter into endless philosophical disputes. Instead of learning about the harnessing of solar energy and the manufacture of missiles to counter the Zionist missiles threatening us, and about the elimination of poverty, illness, AIDS, and cancer, we will start studying the yellow books from the days of the Mu'tazila [nine schools of Islamic thought] and Ibn-Taymiyah [prominent 13th-century religious scholar]. The leader went on to say: America undoubtedly will encourage us to do so and will tell us "study the yellow books for 1 or 2 centuries until you discover how to establish the

caliphate in the modern era." They might even give us aid for that purpose so that we can build institutes and schools to study the yellow books until we again fall behind in the era of space exploration as we have fallen behind in the present era of the atom.

The brother leader of the revolution also stated that the Muslims' go to the Jews and the Christians to receive medical treatment and to be admitted to their hospitals uncovers their deficiency in the medical and scientific fields, and proves the backwardness of the Muslims and their preoccupation with charlatanism and heresy and also their separation from modern science. The brother leader added that in some Muslim countries they have banned the use of the scan which reveals the sex of the fetus, saying that only God knows that. He went on to say: God knows the sex of the fetus without the scan, but we the humans know this with the help of the scan.

The brother leader of the revolution then talked about the criminal acts carried out by some groups in their own countries, indicating that such acts must be directed against the enemy and added: Why do those who blow up car bombs in Beirut, Egypt, and Kuwait not blow up these cars in the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv in order to destroy the Zionist camp, liberate Jerusalem, and enable us to visit Palestine.

The leader indicated that such acts fall within the framework of the power struggle and lead us into a vicious circle in which we suffer from the same old illness that existed at the time of Abi Sufayn [Qurayshit leader who fought Prophet Muhammad in Mecca]. The leader added: There is no difference with the political parties, which vie for power in the Muslim countries.

The brother leader of the revolution called on all Muslims not to compete for power because Muslims have wasted hundreds of years.

He said: We as Muslims consider that reign belongs to God alone, and that we should seek counsel among ourselves on other matters through people's congresses and committees, thus the ruler and minister will not exist anymore and there will be no wasting time.

The leader added that we do not need any publications or interpretations because we have the Koran, and that any discussion in this connection would be considered blasphemy and should be forbidden. He stressed that as long as Muhammad is the last of the prophets, there should be no theological interpretation, particularly since it has transpired that the phrase theological interpretation [ijtihad] has been used to justify all heresies for the sake of power and in order to justify being an agent for the United States or the Israelis, or to justify being slack regarding Islam, Jihad, and unity.

The leader said that we have agreed that the Suna means deeds of the prophet and not his words, meaning that the prophet's deeds should be a model to us all to follow. He cited some of the sayings attributed to the prophet as having nothing at all to do with Islam. He emphasized that no place should be sacred other than the places known to God and which are mentioned in the Koran.

The brother leader of the revolution emphasized that there is no way to the counsel spirit other than through the people's congresses and committees.

The brother leader of the revolution called on Muslims to work hard, to toil, and to distance themselves from useless philposphy. He called on them to teach Muslims how to benefit from solar energy and sea water desalination so that they would be able to live on Earth in prosperity. They should worship God in all tranquillity. They should be strong inside their homes so that nobody can destroy their mosques and houses.

The leader stressed that this era is not one of words, but of space and Earth discovery. It is an era of rejecting a truce with the Jews and the Christians. One should refuse capitulation, humiliation, and submission.

The brother leader indicated that this requires us to set aside the nonsense printed by some Islamic publications, which seeks a way for this party or that to gain power. The brother leader said that we cannot turn Islam into elections, political seats, or ministerial portfolios.

The brother leader of the revolution expressed his regret over the fact that Islamic press establishments publish booklets that are empty of substance and have no links with Islam. He said that those booklets published by Islamic press establishments have no aim except to see which party will attain power. He said that any Islamic party that attains power is finished as an Islamic party. The brother leader of the revolution said that true Islam is the Islam practiced by any individual by himself because a ruler cannot impose Islam on the people; he can serve them only if he is an ordinary person himself, walks with them in the street, delivers a daily lecture, and teaches the people the Koran and the aspects of their religion: the religion of science, of jihad, and of work and struggle, guided in this by the Koranic verses. In conclusion, the brother leader of the revolution pointed out to those present the necessity of discussing the documents that have been presented to the conference, which relate to the establishment of a unified world Islamic popular leadership, and what these documents need in terms of additions, study, and in-depth discussion.

Sudan

Rebels Shoot Down French Relief Aircraft

EA2112153789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have received the following statement from the General Command: A Cessna aircraft belonging to Medecins Sans Frontieres was hit by a SAM missile from the outlaws' camp at (Iriak Iriak) during its takeoff from Aweil Airport at 1100 [0900 GMT] today on its way to Khartoum following the completion of an official task approved by the

General Command. On board were French pilot Ego, French doctor John Mladari, the Frenchman Loro, and the representative of plant protection at the commission, Habit Fraser. They all died in the aircraft.

The General Command mourns the messengers of humanitarianism who gave up their lives serving humanity and the victims of the most cruel conditions and who failed to escape the hands of agents and saboteurs. The General Command offers the families of the martyrs and Medecins San Frontieres its deepest condolences. The agents and hirelings have repeatedly hit civil aircraft. This is not the first time. They have made a habit of this to stir up instability and derail the peace efforts. God willing, we shall be waiting for them. God give us success.

Al-Bashir Receives YAR, PDRY Ministers

JN2012075089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan, today received the delegation from the two parts of the homeland headed by the brothers Telecommunications Minister and Standing Committee Member Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih and Transport Minister Salih 'Abdallah al-Muthanna who delivered a joint message to him from brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee. The message deals with the unity steps between the two parts of the homeland, the results of the historic Aden meeting, and future steps our people are hoping to implement.

Lt Gen al-Bashir praised the unity steps between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland and described them as brave steps taken by the two leaderships in both parts. He affirmed the support of Sudan—leadership, government, and people—to everything that may strengthen Yemen—its land and people.

He said this unity will be an introduction to goodwill and a true nucleus of comprehensive Arab unity.

The meeting was attended by brothers 'Abd-al-Salam Husayn al-'Ansi and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghaffur, ambassadors of the two parts of Yemen, and 'Ali Ahmad Ibrahim, Sudanese minister of transportation and communications.

Accord Signed With Arab Industrial Body

EA1912125689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] A protocol of cooperation between Sudan and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development was completed today at the Ministry of Industry. Dr Muhammad Ahmad 'Umar, minister of industry, signed for the Sudanese side, and Mr Hashim 'Abd al-Rashid, the general manager of the organization, signed for the other side.

It is worth noting that the Arab Organization for Industrial Development offers great assistance to Sudan in the fields of research, training, and technical cooperation.

Execution of Drug, Currency Dealers Carried Out

EA1912130489 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 18th (SUNA)—A drug dealer, Sa'id Ahmad Jaballa, who was sentenced to death, was executed at Coopera [as received] Prison at dawn yesterday.

Meanwhile, the death sentence was also yesterday carried on Magdi Mahqub Muhammad Ahmad who had been convicted by the same court for possessing foreign currencies illegally.

Magdi was convicted on possessing 115,00 [figure as received] U.S. dollars 4,000 Saudi riyals, 2,000 Egyptian pounds, 1,000 Ethiopian birr and 750,000 Sudanese pounds. The two crimes are punishable by death.

Darfur Reconciliation Plan Implemented

EA1912130789 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Dec (SUNA)—Mr Fu'ad 'Id, chief of the central organ for tribal affairs, has said that the provisions of the reconciliation agreement between the Furs and the Arabs have been fully implemented. He said that in the field of security the native administration had been restored in Darfur. People of the native administration had been granted administrative and judicial powers which would enable them to maintain security in the area.

With regard to grazing lands, he said that a technical committee had opened the way for the nomads [al-marahil] and had defined routes for the Arab nomads. The committee would also maintain the boreholes and wells. Mr Fu'ad added that the issues relating to the tribal problems had been reviewed by the Darfur prosecutor's office. The necessary recommendations for preserving charges and releasing those arrested as a result of tribal clashes had been presented. Those arrested would be freed on the basis of the recommendations of the reconciliation conference.

Muslim Fundamentalists Win University Elections

AB1912081189 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 16 (AFP)—Moslem fundamentalist students took all 40 seats in elections this week to the Khartoum University Students' Council, university sources said Saturday [16 December]. They also swept the board in similar elections to 30 seats at the Khartoum branch of the University of Cairo.

They eliminated candidates put up on five other lists—communist, Ba'thist, Africanist, moderate Moslem, and independent. The turnout was 72.7 percent in the two polls, the sources added.

A so-called "Islamic current", effectively representing the banned National Islamic Front (NIF), actively supports Sudan's military rulers who seized power on June 30.

NIF Secretary-General Hassan al-Turaybi, who was among key political leaders jailed after the coup, was recently freed and placed under house arrest. The junta banned all political parties and the trade unions.

Student organizations are the only ones allowed by the junta to hold polls, run discussion groups, and put up political posters.

Government Forces Destroy 'Outlaws' Camps

EA1912193289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] The people's Armed Forces have managed, within the framework of combing and mopping up the areas of the Upper Nile Region, to destroy nine camps belonging to the outlaws, three of which were in (Dotok), (Tangrial) and Atar areas.

The True Dawn forces succeeded in destroying six small camps in the area. The losses incurred by the outlaws were 17 dead, and our forces seized 20 Kalashnikovs.

In Equatoria Region, the Armed Forces attacked the outlaws' camp at Terakaka, completely destroying the camp and inflicting heavy losses on the outlaws in lives and equipment.

Our forces seized 30 Kalashnikov rifles, 10 RPG rockets, 12 antipersonnel mines, 25 rounds of (Goronov), 2 bicycles, and 3 grenades.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces pursued armed robbers, clashed with them in the (Nagabo) mountains, and killed all the robbers. They seized their weapons, consisting of Kalashnikovs, and Abu Asharah rifles. The Armed Forces also recovered stolen camels.

PDRY

Troop Withdrawal Along Border Reported

EA2012095889 Paris AFP in English 0208 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Aden, Dec 20 (AFP)—Troops from South [People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, PDRY] and North Yemen [Yemen Arab Republic, YAR] Tuesday began to withdraw from positions along their border under an agreement signed last week by the chiefs of staff of both countries, a senior South Yemeni official said.

'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the ruling Yemen Socialist Party, told a group of officers here that the accord was signed in the North Yemen capital, Sanaa, and would help create "a new climate of detente between the two armies."

Troops from both countries have been massed for several years along the border of South and North Yemen.

South Yemeni Defense Minister Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad praised the accord and said that both countries were "currently endeavoring to consolidate mutual confidence in a bid to provide the (future) unified Yemen with one army."

South and North Yemen signed an agreement last month aimed at paving the way for the unification of the two states.

Relations between the two Yemens were tense following South Yemen's independence from Britain in 1967 and their troops clashed on two occasions, in 1972 and in again in 1979.

North Yemen has a 36,000-strong army while South Yemen relies on 27,000 troops with more than half of each country's armed forces deployed along their roughly defined border.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Cuba

JN2012132489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Doha, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Qatar and Cuba have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at the ambassadorial level as of today.

A joint statement issued today said: Out of their desire to promote relations of friendship and cooperation between their countries, the Qatari and Cuban Governments decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at the ambassadorial level as of today. The two sides expressed confidence that the establishment of diplomatic relations and the exchange of ambassadors between them would contribute to promoting international cooperation, the reinforcement of world peace, and the strengthening of the exalted principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

The two sides also expressed their readiness to establish their bilateral relations in accordance with the UN Charter, and based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs.

Yemen Arab Republic

Tunisia's Belaid Paves Way for Protocol Accord

Meets With 'Abd-al-Ghani

JN2012131089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Standing Committee, received at noon today Brother Moncef Belaid, Tunisian minister of national economy.

During the meeting they reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries in the trade and economy fields.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, and Brother Tunisian Ambassador to Sanaa Chedli Zoukar.

Received by Planning Minister

JN2012140089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of planning, head of the Central Planning Organ, and member of the Standing Committee, this morning received Brother Moncef Belaid, Tunisian minister of national economy.

During the meeting, they reviewed economic and developmental relations between the two countries and means of developing and promoting them.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, deputy minister of planning and deputy head of the Central Planning Organ, and Brother Tunisian Ambassador to Sanaa Chedli Zoukar.

Signs Cooperation Protocol

JN2012210989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] An executive program and a protocol for technical, economic, cultural, information, and educational cooperation was signed between our country and Tunisia at the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade today. The minutes of the joint committee meetings between the two fraternal countries were also approved. The

program and the protocol provide for increasing cooperation in various fields. They also determine the participating sectors in the coming year in light of the executive program. The program and protocol confirm the importance of increasing trade exchanges and workers' field trips in the various sectors of the two countries to make use of their expertise.

The protocol and the program were signed for our country by Brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, and for the Republic of Tunisia by Brother Moncef Belaid, minister of national economy.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Paris Conference

JN2012130689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, left for Paris this morning to take part in the ministerial conference on Euro-Arab dialogue. The conference will be held in the French capital 21-22 December. The foreign ministers of the Arab countries and the EEC will participate. [passage omitted]

PDRY Minister Departs After Financial Meetings

JN2012150189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, member of the Central Committee, minister of industry, trade, and supply, and head of the southern part's delegation to the Joint Economic and Financial Committee, left Sanaa today after attending the first round of the committee's meetings, which ended in Sanaa yesterday.

Dr 'Abdallah 'Uthman made a statement to the SABA' news agency in which he said that during this session, the committee completed all tasks left over from the last period, including those concerning provisions for trade exchange.

They also found ways of dealing with the obstructions to the transfer of goods between the two sides. He pointed out that some recommendations were being made, and the concerned sides will be told to begin preparing new draft laws and lists that will organize the work of ministries and institutions in the united state.

The ministries and institutions were also asked to define their concepts on merging the two sides.

He was seen off by Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade; and Brother Muhammad al-Hilmi, deputy finance minister; Brother Muhyi-al-Din al-Dhabbi, undersecretary of the ministry of economy, trade, and supply for the economy sector; and Brother Muhammad al-'Ammari, head of the Unity Affairs Office.

PDRY's Salim Arrives for Meetings on Border

JN2112100089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-Wasi Salim, minister of justice and religious trusts and head of the South Yemeni side to the Yemeni Borders Committee, arrived in Sanaa today to participate in the meetings of the committee that will begin its work in Sanaa tomorrow, Thursday. In a statement to SABA', Brother 'Abd-al-Wasi Salim said that the committee's work comes as one of the positive results of the latest summit meeting in Aden between Brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee. Salim said: The committee will discuss the issue of Yemeni borders since it is considered a national issue that is linked to the one Yemeni land and to the higher interests of the Yemeni people. Salim indicated that the committee will study ideas for coordination and consultation between the leaderships of the two parts. It also will work toward unifying perspectives on this issue with whatever serves the stability of the Yemeni people and of the region as a whole.

'Abd-al-Wasi Salim was received by Brothers Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi, minister of justice; Ahmad al-Iryani, director of the Central Auditing and Accounting Authority; Ahmad al-Khattabi, under secretary of the Interior Ministry at the Administrative Units Sector and member of the Standing Committee; and Muhammad al-'Ammari, director of the Unity Affairs Office.

Further Reportage on Rocket, Missile Technology

'Not Meant for Aggression'

JN2012201189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim deputized today for His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in opening the 4-day meeting of the pan Arab seminar on confronting anti-Arab machinations, sponsored by the Iraqi History-Writing Organization. Jasim, representative of the president, delivered an inaugural speech in which he conveyed the greetings of his excellency the president to the Arab nation's thinkers and historians. [passage omitted]

Jasim said: It is a fortunate coincidence you came to your country, victorious Iraq, which has scored numerous victories, thanks to the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. Iraq has tapped the most sophisticated gates of technology since it began production of the al-Husayn and al-'Abbas interceptor missiles, and the airborne warning and control system 'Adnan 1, not to mention the successful test launch of the 2,000 km-range al-'Abid satellite-carrier rocket system and the Tammuz 1 missile. While doing this, we also are striving to enlighten man intellectually and culturally and to imbue him with a knowledge of civilization. We also are endeavoring to enlighten him about the dangers of indoctrination. We have gained access to the most sophisticated, complex scientific developments and scored a formidable success, God be praised, regarding this.

The minister added: This excellence is an asset to the Arabs and Muslims, since our acquisition of these formidably sophisticated technological and military capabilities is not meant for aggression and threats. We have acquired these capabilities to safeguard the dignity of this nation and preserve its image as a nation cherishing tolerance, generosity, magnanimity, and human interaction. We also devised these capabilities to keep the torch of pan-Arabism glowing in the world. [passage omitted]

The inaugural session was attended by Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, the under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information, the heads of the Arab delegations participating in the seminar meetings, and a number of representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Baghdad.

Ambassador on Program's Secrecy

JN1612182689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Ya'qub Yusuf stated during a news conference that Iraq is capable of protecting its space installations and deterring external aggression. He said Iraq for several years kept secret its installations and program to develop the al-'Abid rocket, despite active U.S. and European spy satellites. Iraq can protect its installations with its own defensive means, which developed greatly during the war, the ambassador said.

Envoy Describes System

AB2012191389 Dakar PANA in English 1735 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Harare, 20 Dec (ZIANA/PANA)—Iraq has developed a 48-tonne rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit and successfully tested it earlier in December.

Iraq ambassador to Zimbabwe, Issam Mahboub, told ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY], in Harare Wednesday that the rocket would be used "solely for peaceful purposes" and had nothing to do with a ground-to-ground missile which his country had also developed. Then 25 metre-long rocket has three stages and was launched on 5 December from Al-Anbar base in Baghdad.

"We successfully achieved a complicated scientific phase on December 5, when we successfully tested the launching of a three-stage rocket to outer sp[illegible]n the Al-Anbar base for outer space research."

"The rocket was built solely by Iraq know-how and hands, without any foreign assistance," he said.

Building the rocket was only the first phase of Iraq's three-stage space programme, the ambassador added. He said Iraq had also developed a surface-to-surface missile with ranges of up to 2000 kilometres.

The successful launch of the rocket meant that the Iraqi Government had now gone through the most difficult, complicated and important stage of the development and production of two different missiles, he said.

Mubarak Congratulates Saddam

JN1912144289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this morning received a telephone call from his brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, congratulating his excellency on Iraq's scientific achievement in inventing rockets that can put satellites into orbit.

President Saddam thanked his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the congratulations, declaring any scientific achievement by an Arab country is intended for all Arabs and in the Arabs' service. He also asserted the fraternal relations between Egypt and Iraq will place this scientific achievement at the service of the two fraternal peoples, not just the Iraqis.

Mauritania Praises Launch

JN2012193589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn this evening received Mohamed Saleh Ould Addoud, Mauritanian minister of culture and Islamic orientation.

Addoud conveyed to his excellency the president a verbal message from his brother, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Salvation, containing the Mauritanian chairman's congratulations on the successful test launch of the al-'Abid satellite-carrier rocket system and his pleasure over the enormous development witnessed by Iraq in the field of producing high technology products. Col Taya also paid tribute to the enhancement of strong ties binding the two fraternal states.

His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn affirmed to the Mauritanian envoy that any source of strength and might in any part of the Arab homeland is an asset for all Arabs.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and acting foreign minister; and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn this evening also received Dr (Campers), Central Committee member of the Communist Party of Cuba, and his wife.

Saddam Chairs Meeting, Discusses Budget, Issues

JN1912153789 Baghdad INA in English 1445 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 19, INA—President Saddam Husayn today presided over a joint session of the Revolution Command Council, the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and Council of Ministers.

The joint session tackled debate of the annual economic report and the general state budget for the year 1990 and other topics on the agenda with necessary measures towards them were adopted. [sentence as received]

Speaking at the almost three-hour session, President Husayn stressed that any economic project should be upgraded to the technical and scientific level of the person undertaking its operation and to the levels of technical and scientific specifications required for it so that he would ensure its operation in full capacity and realize qualitative degree in production equal to its feasible specifications.

President Husayn added that economy in general means how to make and develop wealth and therefore we have to think of the relationship between this wealth and the individual and how to distribute it within the general socialist concept.

The joint session, following a thorough discussion of the economic report on the country's economic condition and policy, the state budget and the import and investment programmes, endorsed the economic report and the state budget for the year 1990. The session referred them to the National Assembly for debate and endorsement.

The session also discussed political topics on the agenda leading among which this week visit to Iraq, by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The Council expressed satisfaction and appreciation to the fruitful results of the visit and their role in boosting the existing close relations between the two countries and their expansion in all domains.

The session reviewed results of the meeting between President Husayn and the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon, emphasizing Iraq's firm position on its desire for Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity and for its full sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and the departure of troops from its territory.

During the session, results of the recent visit paid to Bahrain by Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council were reviewed. The Council appreciated the results of the visit in strengthening bilateral relations, concluding the security agreements, and expanding spheres of cooperation in various fields.

Mr Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, outlined details of his talks in New York with the UN secretary general which covered ways to implement Security Council Resolution 598; Iraq's assessment of the results of UN Envoy Jan Eliasson's visit to both Iraq and Iran; and Iraq's principled, clear, and constructive positions on implementing Resolution 598 in addition to exposing the disgraceful Iranian position vis-a-vis the prisoner of war issue which contradicts the international mandatory Third General Agreement.

More on Visit of Tunisian President, Delegation

Saddam Issues Statement

JN1612205789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has expressed pleasure at brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to Iraq.

In a press statement made on Ben Ali's visit, his excellency the president said: This visit will give us the chance to discuss everything concerning our Arab nation and its major issues, just as my brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said. This visit moreover also will enable us to discuss the fraternal bilateral ties that already are strong. The president added: The strength of these ties, however, does not satisfy us, because we in Tunisia and Iraq aspire to improve and develop these

ties. God willing, during this visit and other visits we will make to Tunisia, bilateral ties will continue to develop in the interests of the two peoples and the Arab nation.

Escheikh Meets With Hammadi

JN1712130089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy prime minister, met here today with Abdelhamid Escheikh, Tunisian minister of foreign affairs.

During the meeting they reviewed developed ties between the two fraternal states and ways to expand bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

UNIIMOG Commander Jovic Arrives 13 Dec

JN1312175989 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13, INA—Major General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq. The UNIIMOG commander's visit comes within the frame of his shuttle visits between Iraq and Iran to supervise ceasefire in the two countries.

Leaves Baghdad 20 Dec

JN2012131889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad today for Tehran. He was seen off at the airport by a number of officers of the coordination committee with the UN observers.

Legal, Consulate Accord Signed With Turkey

JN2012202889 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Ankara, Dec 20, INA—An agreement on legal, judicial and consultate cooperation between Iraq and Turkey was signed here today.

The agreement which was signed by the Iraqi ambassador to Turkey and the director of legal and consultate affairs at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims at regulating consultate, administrative, legal and judicial relations between the ministries of foreign affairs in the two countries.

Iraqi and Turkish sides held two rounds of official talks last April and August to prepare for this agreement.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Paris Euro-Arab Meeting

JN1912182089 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 19, INA—Mr Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, left here today for Paris leading an official delegation for the Euro-Arab dialogue scheduled there on ministers level next Friday.

On departure, Mr 'Aziz told INA that Iraq's participation in the dialogue would be active since it was among the Arab states that continuously called, since the 1970's, for developing cooperation between Arab and European groups based on mutual respect and interests.

Mr 'Aziz added that Iraq highly appreciates the initiative of France, now chairing the European Community, for holding the first session of the Euro-Arab dialogue.

He added that Iraq during this session would forward its opinion for the need to establish an organization structure for the dialogue to guarantee the continuous dialogue for the two sides to reach agreements on means of cooperation, especially in economic, cultural, and technical fields.

Dredging of Shatt al-Basrah Said Completed

JN1912184789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Dec 89

["Arab Cooperation Council pool" item]

[Text] Basra, 13 Dec (INA)—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's al-Muthanna Company has completed dredging the Shatt al-Basrah in the city of cities, the valiant Basra. The project, which the company started 1 November last year, aims to widen the Shatt al-Basrah by 40 meters so the total width will be 98 meters. It also will deepen it 6 more meters by lifting out 4 million square meters of silt and mud.

The Shatt al-Basrah is an important project; the Shatt al-Basrah and Shatt al-'Arab are equally important. The Iraqi general department of ports began digging the 40-km long Shatt al-Basrah in 1970 as a link between the Shatt al-'Arab in the region of al-Karmah, 10 km north of Basra, and the port of Khawr al-Zubayr.

The Shatt al-Basrah has great economic importance; it is an important waterway that reduces by one-third the distance traveled by ships heading to al-Ma'qil from the Arabian Gulf through the Shatt al-'Arab. It is also used to transport goods from the ports of Umm Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr to Baghdad—an operation that actually began last September.

The second reason the Shatt al-Basrah is important is it is a source for draining marsh waters in flood season; it has a drainage capacity of 500 square meters per second. It can also be used for agricultural and irrigation purposes. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has prepared a study on digging a 40-km long irrigation canal

that would carry water from the Shatt al-Basrah to the al-Zubayr region to secure additional water for the region's farms, known for producing tomatoes, onion, garlic, and other vegetables.

The Shatt al-Basrah recently was linked to the general delta project, which eliminates salt from large parts of the central and southern lands. Many locks were built in the heart of the Shatt al-Basrah. These have a drainage capacity of 200 square meters per second.

Hammadi Receives Romanian Official, Message

JN1612162089 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 16, INA—Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy premier, received a message from his Romanian Counterpart, Stefan Andrei, dealing with the friendly bilateral relations.

The message was delivered to Dr Hammadi by the director general of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Trade during his audience with Dr Hammadi here today.

Dr Hammadi met, also, here today the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad. They discussed the friendly cooperation relations and means of developing them.

Trade Minister Meets Cuban Friendship Official

JN2012202689 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 20, INA—Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today chairman of Cuba's committee of peace, solidarity and friendship. During the meeting, means of developing cooperation between Iraq and Cuba were reviewed.

Arens Wants Soviet Support for Arabs Toned Down

TA2012174989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said today that the USSR could make a positive contribution to the peace process if it tones down its support for the extreme elements in the Arab world, such as Syria, Libya, and the PLO. According to him, if the Syrian president realizes that he no longer has a blank check in Moscow, it would constitute an important contribution to the peace process.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Arens was speaking at a meeting with EEC ambassadors to Israel. Mr Arens again proposed that the European countries take the opportunity of the Arabic-European meeting, slated to open in Paris tomorrow, to convince their Arab counterparts to begin a process of normalization with Israel.

Iran Deal Seen as Break in Muslim Solidarity

TA2012131689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 89 p 9

[Editorial: "The Oil Deal With Iran"]

[Text] The Iranian Government cannot have been pleased with the NBC-TV report on the large oil sale—2 million barrels worth $36 million—to Israel or the unloading of the shipment at the port of Elat. Even the shah did not want to advertise his country's oil deals with Israel, while Israeli censorship carefully weeded out any related report.

Such bans, however, have never stopped the world from knowing that Iran regularly supplies Israel with oil. The current leaders in Tehran cannot have deluded themselves that the deal, as reported by NBC, would remain a secret for long. They certainly could not have expected Israel to issue any other reaction than the one that was indeed made by the defense establishment and the Foreign Ministry, that "Israel is not in the habit of divulging details about its sources for the procurement of the oil it needs."

The oil market long ago became a buyer's market. But the addition of another supplier to those from which Israel regularly buys its oil should not worsen its predicament as a consumer in terms of the price asked of it.

At the same time, it should be pointed out that the deal brought to our attention by NBC goes beyond the economic sphere. The regime instituted by Ayatollah Khomeyni after the ouster of the shah revealed deep hatred toward Israel. Cutting the oil supply to Israel was one of the chief practical manifestations of this hostility. The casual resumption of the flow would have indicated a repeal of the boycott by the new Iranian Administration. Thus, even if this is not a sign of the revival of the practice that prevailed during the shah's times, a one-time consignment by itself constitutes a significant shift from Khomeyni's line. This is reason enough for satisfaction.

One should wait and see whether the resumption of trade ties will also yield changes in other spheres. There is no telling whether the government in Tehran the liberation of Shaykh 'Ubayd and several hundred Shiites held by the South Lebanese Army is important enough to take vigorous action and release the Israeli soldiers who have been missing since the war in Lebanon, as well as other Western hostages. And, if it does, the question is whether it can impose its will on organizations such as Hizballah or other guerrilla groups over which it has a certain degree of influence. At any rate, a ray of hope shines through the oil deal in this regard as well.

Perhaps the Iranian oil deal should be seen in the broader context, such as in the resumption of diplomatic relations with Ethiopia, in the sense that the "wider circle" we fostered in the fifties and sixties to counter the hostility of the "narrower circle"—namely the Arab circle—is coming back to life.

Peace with the Arab countries has been and still is our chief foreign policy goal. The wider circle has been unable to persuade the Arab countries to accept the existence of Israel as a nation on part of its historic homeland. But with the wider circle's gradual disintegration, which Israel could not prevent, the most uncompromising elements in the Arab countries have grown stronger.

With the resumption of relations with Ethiopia and the disappearance of the Iranian boycott, however, these elements will have to reexamine the feasibility of their expectations of defeating Israel at any point in the future. No Islamic front against Israel would be complete without Iran.

Shamir's Jordan Remark Called 'Irresponsible'

TA1512152089 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 Dec 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Shamir's Maneuver Will Not Deceive Anyone"]

[Excerpts] Commenting on recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in which he contended that "Jordan is Palestine," King Husayn affirmed 2 days ago that Jordan is aware of the Israeli schemes that are behind all attempts to deprive the Palestinian people of their rights. King Husayn added that a settlement of the Palestinian problem hinges on restoration of the full rights of the Palestinian people over their national soil. He also said the slogan being raised by Shamir today not only contravenes the most elementary rules of geography and history, but it also casts a heavy shadow over the entire region. King Husayn said the slogan is an attempt by Israel to interfere in the internal affairs of another country by chanting unrealistic slogans that are liable to impede regional peace efforts.

These allegations by Shamir come at a time when a ray of hope is appearing on the horizon. There are indications that the Middle East problem has started moving down

the long and complicated path toward a settlement. There is hope that the upcoming tripartite meeting between the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers might pave the way for elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people reject the alternative homeland principle. Their yearning for their homeland will not be obliterated by the statements of Shamir, Arens, and Sharon who imagine that they can design the Middle East region according to their own moods.

The Palestinian people, as well as their Jordanian brothers, are fully alert. They will not be deceived by these maneuvers which seek to create a rift in Jordan's national fabric. These attempts only increase the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples' insistence on reinforcing national unity and supporting the process of restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination. All the conspiracies and maneuvers will not be able to divert the Palestinian people's attention from their basic goals and from their struggle to establish their state on the soil of their homeland and achieve their personality and entity.

We are not surprised by such Israeli statements regarding Jordan. Since its establishment, Israel has been working to export its problems and crises outside its borders. What happened in Lebanon is the best testimony of how the sectarian conflict there served Israel. Israel does not conceal its desire to "balkanize" all the countries with which it has common borders. Should dissension and conflict erupt in Jordan between the Palestinians and Jordanians, or should a conspiracy take place in Syria whereby secterian feuds between the Druze, the 'Alawis, the Shiites, and the Sunnis might flare up, there is no doubt that this would serve Israel's interests.

Hence, we are alert to what Shamir is seeking from his talk that Jordan is Palestine. In fact, Palestine is Palestine and Jordan is Jordan. Shamir's irresponsible statement, in the long run, does not serve the interests of any party. It is an attempt to preoccupy some people in Israel who are misled and unaware of the reality of intransigent Israeli policies.

Jordan's Stability 'Clear Israeli Interest'

TA1312132289 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Dec 89 p 8

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Husayn's Intifadah"]

[Excerpt] If it seems that the threat of war seems closer on the eve of the 3d year of the intifadah, it is not because of the intifadah itself, but because of its repercussions in Jordan. The destabilization of the Hashemite regime, a direct consequence of the intifadah, contains the potential for a military clash between the Israeli and Arab armies.

The Likud's true policy, in particular, was revealed recently: its desire to establish an alternate state for the Palestinians on the east bank of the Jordan River, with the hope that they will make do with it and forgo their homeland. What becomes apparent, however, is the fact that if the Hashemite regime falls, power in Amman will be seized not by Palestinian nationalists, but by Khomeyniite Islam. Not only will this Islam indignantly reject Likud "proposals" to replace Palestine for Jordan, it also will not be appeased by the return of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It will, rather, turn the east bank into a launchpad for the liberation of the whole of Palestine "from the sea to the river," as the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] slogan goes. The West Bank and Gaza will become its forward trenches.

It is hard to believe that Iraq will stand idly by when fundamentalist Islam takes over Jordan, because this would mean that Iraq would be engulfed by fanatical Islam on both sides. As a matter of fact, Saddam Husayn has already offered King Husayn Iraqi involvement in times of distress. It is even harder to imagine Syrian indifference to such Iraqi involvement. Israel, on the other hand, has always considered an alien Arab intervention in Jordan as casus belli. This leads us to realize just how dangerous is the Likud theory of an alternative Palestinian homeland in Jordan. Jordan's stability is a clear Israeli interest, now more than ever.

The developments in Jordan should be a cause for concern not only because of the danger of war, but also because a weak Jordan destabilizes the potential structure of a Middle East confederation. The Arab Council for Economic Cooperation, "the club of four" (Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic), is the most appropriate framework through which to channel the solution of the Palestinian problem. This could be achieved by Israel and Palestine joining the future economic confederation, thus getting Iraq to back the peace efforts.

It is no mere coincidence that the very day President Mubarak arrived in Amman was the same day Muslim Palestinians began rioting in the al-Baq'ah refugee camp north of Amman. Mubarak must have noticed the dangerous potential existing in the recent developments in Jordan. It was therefore no accident that Mubarak chose Amman of all places to deliver his attack on Prime Minister Shamir, who, for his part, is now trying to advance the Likud formula of "Jordan is Palestine." [passage omitted]

Visiting Polish Solidarity Leader Interviewed

TA2012155189 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 89 pp 7, 8

[Interview with Janusz Ziolkowski, chairman of the Polish Senate Foreign Affairs Commission and a leader of Solidarity, currently visiting Israel, by 'Ofer Arian; date and place not given]

[Text] [Arian] Why was it that the Polish people pioneered the changes currently taking place in the entire Eastern Bloc?

[Ziolkowski] For many years the Polish people had been yearning for a democratic regime. The communist regime was imposed on it in 1945. The "Black October" revolution, during which Gomulka took power, occurred in 1956. For many years several underground groups had been active in Poland; they assimilated democratic concepts and raised two generations on them.

Unlike other communist countries, 80 percent of the agricultural land in Poland is cultivated by private elements. The Catholic Church enjoyed relatively great independence and its leader enjoyed considerable autonomy. In 1980 Solidarity emerged and shook the very foundations of the state.

Because of all this I believe that the process currently under way in Poland is irreversible. What is happening today is the result of the intensive, arduous work of many years and expresses the wishes of the entire Polish people. I believe that in the very near future Poland will become a real democracy and will take its place among the countries of the free world.

[Arian] Rapid political changes inflict shocks on the socioeconomic structure. Are you not worried that the serious economic crisis currently afflicting your country might undermine the stability of the new regime and hinder democracy?

[Ziolkowski] Although we are in for a tough 6 months, both economically and politically, I am truly confident that these difficulties will not hinder the natural process currently taking place in our country. The institutions we have set up are a guarantee that even under tough conditions we will not be deterred and will continue to work toward democracy. Things are bound to straighten themselves out and I believe that the people will give their full support to the government.

[Arian] For many years Poland has been living with an economy of shortages. The well-known economist Cornay [name as published] argues that the government's massive intervention in the economy and the constraints of a "soft" budget have deprived the Polish economy of any ability whatsoever to allocate resources effectively. What do you say to that?

[Ziolkowski] Undoubtedly there is something to Cornay's arguments. The current government is working on opening Polish markets to the world, moving away from central planning, privatizing government industries, and trying to reduce bureaucracy and make it more efficient.

Our situation is better than that of the Soviet Union, because in our country most farms are privately owned. Our industries, however, are all government owned and are big, outdated, and inefficient. Soon we will try to sell these industries and train workers to work in more advanced ones such as computers and high technology.

[Arian] You talk about a technological breakthrough and a change in working patterns, but there are few highly educated people in Poland and the changes you mention call for huge sums....

[Ziolkowski] You are right. It is clear to me and to the country's leadership that these changes will take a long time. It is clear to us that economic recovery will take more than 6 months, but I have no doubt that it will come through.

[Arian] Poland's current annual inflation rate exceeds 1,000 percent. The rate of unemployment is continually rising (it already stands at 10 percent), the government's coffers are empty of dollars, and it is increasingly difficult to find basic food items. How long can you go this way? Are you not afraid that the people might vote in favor of bringing back the tyrannical regime, if not just to have basic food items and to curb inflation?

[Ziolkowski] Poland recently received some $5 billion in aid from the U.S. Government and the EEC countries. With this aid we hope to make it through the rough times ahead of us. There is no doubt that economic recovery will call on us to make concessions in our living standards and quality of life, but as long as the people know that this is being done for a worthy cause they will lend their hands to it. The Polish people are no less hard-working and talented than other nations, and I have no doubt whatsoever that under an enlightened regime they will score impressive achievements that will guarantee them a proper standard of living. Unlike the East Germans, Poles do not pine for another country to be their own and they will probably tighten their belts to attain Poland's economic goals.

I believe the negative emigration balance will stop the moment people realize that the country's gates are and will remain open.

[Arian] Do you foresee a resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and Poland? Will such a move have an economic impact?

[Ziolkowski] I took the initiative of raising this subject in the Sejm, and I have no doubt whatsoever that relations will resume very shortly. Upon the resumption of relations, economic cooperation between Poland and Israel will strengthen. We need your advanced technology, many items you manufacture, and your help with advice and counseling. You could take advantage of the abundant natural resources and the relatively low cost of labor in our country.

Ministry Reacts to Developments in Romania

TA2012173989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] The first official reaction by Jerusalem to recent developments in Romania has just reached our desk: Israel expresses regret and concern about the developments in Romania. Our political correspondent Arye

Golan reports that the Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a communique a short time ago expressing deep regret at the loss of life, and the hope that the Romanian authorities will proceed with restraint and according to conventional humanitarian norms in respecting human rights. In its communique the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem goes on to say that the Israeli public is following reports about the tragic events in Romania over the past few days with great concern.

Firebomb at Romanian Embassy; Visas Stopped

TA2112063089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] A firebomb was hurled towards the Romanian Embassy in Tel Aviv overnight. A fire also was set at a construction site across from the embassy complex. There was no damage and nobody was hurt.

Romania has stopped issuing transit visas for Jews from the Soviet Union. Their consulate in Moscow stopped issuing visas to Jews trying to reach Israel via Bucharest on Tuesday. Immigration officials told our reporter that the delay was only temporary and would not disrupt Soviet immigration to Israel.

Hamas Leader's Trial Delayed; New Date Not Set

TA2112053789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The trial of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, has been postponed from Sunday to a new date which has not yet been determined. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the postponement is due to the authorities' desire to reduce tension in the region brought about by the trials of Hamas activists. The authorities are also looking for a hall large enough to include the many journalists who have shown interest in the trial.

Gaza Detainee Dies During Shin Bet Questioning

TA2012194889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 dec 89

[Text] An Arab prisoner died last night in the Shin Bet interrogation ward in Gaza Prison. The detainee, Khalid Kamil Shaykh 'Ali, aged 27, was a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member. He had been held in detention for the past 2 weeks.

Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that Commander Rahamim Confort, commander of the Police Southern District, appointed two officers to investigate the circumstances of the case.

New Property Confiscation Order Issued

TA1912185589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The Gaza Strip military government has issued orders allowing authorities to confiscate the property of parents who fail to pay their children's fines or bail. Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus reports:

The military government now will be able to confiscate parents' property very easily. The administrative order includes the previously introduced order on the supervision of the behavior of minors. The significance of the step lies in the authority bestowed on the Civil Administration, which—by power of this brief and efficient order—now will be able to enforce payment in cases in which parents neglect to pay bail or to appear before the authorized officer after their child is apprehended in an incident. [passage omitted]

'Tougher' Measures Detailed

TA2112063289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The Military Judge Advocate has authorized tougher measures following an increase in stone-throwing in the Gaza Strip, our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports. The order permits the sealing of houses or rooms of minors who hurled stones more than once and the confiscation of property from the houses of parents who do not pay the fines after their children are caught hurling stones. The fines on the parents of stone-throwers will be raised to a maximum of 5,000 shekels.

Our correspondent points out that soldiers and officers in the Gaza Strip complained to the defense minister that tougher punishment would lead to a significant decline in stone-throwing.

Reopening of Universities in Territories Urged

TA2112110989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Representatives of higher education institutes in the territories—university heads, lecturers, and students—protested the continued closure of universities there. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that they convened in East Jerusalem and pointed out that over 14,000 students have been forced to stop their studies, while some 40,000 high school graduates cannot continue their academic studies. The educators called on Israel to reopen the universities. They also urged higher education institutions around the world to intervene in this issue.

Police Set Up Antidrug Gendarmerie in Lebanon

TA2012140489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by Zohar Eisenberg]

[Text] The Israel Police are completing the establishment of a gendarmerie command in southern Lebanon to help curb drug smuggling from Lebanon into Israel. Police Commissioner David Kraus said that the heads of defense bodies operating in the northern part of Israel (the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Shin Bet, and the police) have recently held consultations on the drug issue and decided to cooperate in this sphere.

A police officer holding the rank of superintendent, who specializes in Arab sector affairs, and a team of policemen recently completed the formation of gendarmerie commands in Lebanon, modeling the commands on the Israel Police setup. The commands operate mainly in the larger southern Lebanese villages, primarily in the eastern sector. The police chief and its spokesman refused to answer questions regarding future joint Israel Police-Lebanese gendarmerie operations.

Police officers in the north have reported that the gendarmerie consists of local residents who are subject to the strict supervision of Israel Police officers from the Northern District and regional officers who specialize in Arab sector affairs. They claim that all operations conducted by Israeli officers and requests by the gendarmerie for information, equipment, and weapons are transmitted to senior Israel Police echelons and to the commissioner himself, as he closely follows Israel Police operations in southern Lebanon. Israel Police personnel are training the gendarmerie mainly in patrolling and surveillance operations, and in intelligence gathering.

At the same time, sources associated with the issue believe that the establishment of the gendarmerie in southern Lebanon may expose the Israel Police's modes of operation and undercut the chances of capturing smugglers or identifying the big wheels in the heroin business. This criticism is being rejected by Northern District officers, who contend that they have no knowledge about the infiltration of drug dealers into the ranks of the Lebanese gendarmerie. According to the officers, the Israel Police grant only limited assistance to the counterpart they are helping to set up in Lebanon.

The Israel Police have recently stepped up their war against narcotics, raising the number of officers in the Lebanon border unit from 6 to 36, and providing it with modern equipment. The police commissioner related yesterday during a tour of the Police Academy in Qiryat Ata that the police are currently consolidating a new model for operations and procedures for that unit, whose job is to prevent the smuggling of large quantities of heroin from Lebanon into Israel.

Further Reportage on 'Arafat's Talks With Husayn

Middle East Crisis Discussed

JN1912213189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening received Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, at al-Nadwah Palace. They conducted a closed meeting prior to an expanded Jordanian-Palestinian meeting chaired by the two men. The talks dealt with efforts to achieve a just peace in the Middle East crisis and contacts and consultations in this respect. The talks also dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the eagerness of both sides to safeguard and promote them to serve the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people toward achievement of their legitimate rights and the establishment of their independent state on their national Palestinian soil.

On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the information minister and acting foreign minister. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Muhammad Milhim, 'Abdallah al-Hurani, and 'Abbas Zaki.

His Majesty King Husayn also hosted a dinner banquet in honor of President 'Arafat. The dinner was attended by members of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations taking part in the talks.

'Arafat Discusses Topics

JN2012191489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Official talks between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides resumed this evening at the Prime Ministry. Prime Minister Mudar Badran headed the Jordanian side, and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, the Palestinian side.

The talks dealt with the Middle East situation, developments regarding the Palestine question on Arab and international levels, and efforts to promote Middle East peace. Talks also dealt with Jordanian-Palestinian ties and ways of improve and strengthen them to serve the Palestinian people's endeavor to realize their legitimate rights, including establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by his majesty the king's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, and ministers of planning, information, and awqaf. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, Muhammad Milhim, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

Following the talks, 'Arafat made the following statements to our correspondent, Salim 'Ali Dhiyab.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Your Excellency the President: What is the nature of the talks you conducted with his majesty the king during tonight's session? What were the major issues discussed?

['Arafat] This session was a continuation of the round of talks that began last night with His Majesty King Husayn. At this session, we concentrated first of all on support for the blessed intifadah of our people, children, women, and men against the abhorrent Israeli occupation and oppression. At the same time we concentrated on how to increase that support, especially regarding the serious Israeli escalation which, for example, Rabin expressed today. He said he wants to punish even the fathers of the children who stage the intifadah, which is a strange, bizarre decision, especially after the Malta summit meeting. True, it was not the main subject, but it was the only subject to be discussed outside the framework of bilateral relations. It is well known that during the summit the Middle East question was discussed, particularly the Palestine question. We discussed the Arab position, which must follow in the wake of what was agreed upon. In this regard, I have agreed with his majesty the king, and just now, also with the prime minister, on the need to support the Arab action, particularly the seven-member committee on the intifadah, and to support moves made by that committee on all international levels. As I said yesterday, and will repeat today, the issue between us and our brothers here in Jordan, at head of whom is His Majesty King Husayn, is not an issue of coordination but of joint action on all levels, whether through the joint committee or through political action on local, Palestinian, Jordanian, Arab, and international levels. On behalf of my brothers in the PLO Executive Committee, I express our great appreciation of this brotherly, firm, and principled stand adopted by His Majesty King Husayn toward his kinfolk and beloved ones under Israeli occupation.

[Dhiyab] What does Mr 'Arafat say about Shamir's statement—which he always repeats—that Jordan is the Palestinians' homeland?

['Arafat] If he goes back to such statements, I want to remind him of what President Mubarak has said. If he returns to such statements, we will go back to the beginning and say that his homeland is Poland. [end recording]

'Arafat Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2112065289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, left Amman last night following a 2-day working visit to Jordan.

During the visit President 'Arafat met with His Majesty King Husayn. They discussed the Jordanian-Palestinian

ties and ways to improve them in all fields to serve the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to achieve their legitimate rights and establish their independent state on the soil of their homeland—Palestine.

'Arafat also met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran. They comprehensively reviewed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and international moves at this stage. It was agreed to activate the Jordanian-Palestinian committee and to continue consultations between the Palestinian leadership and Jordan.

'Arafat asserted Jordanian and Palestinian viewpoints on peace efforts in the region are identical. He also confirmed the PLO's acceptance of establishing a confederation with Jordan.

'Arafat was seen off by Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister; His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council; PLO Executive Committee Members 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Muhammad Milhim, 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, and Bishop Ilya Khuri; Colonel Samir al-Khatib, head of the PLO's political department [title as heard]; the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan; and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

'Arafat was accompanied on his visit by a delegation comprised of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Bassam Abu-Sharif, and 'Imad Shuqur.

Abu-Sharif Comments

JN2012133289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has stated 'Arafat's current talks with King Husayn aim at closing Arab ranks to confront Israeli deception to foil peace efforts in the region. In a statement to our radio, Abu-Sharif said it has become clear to the whole world, particularly the U.S. Administration, that the PLO has contributed positively toward starting the peace process in the Middle East. Abu-Sharif emphasized that the U.S. Administration bears the political and moral responsibility, that the administration now possesses enough information on the stands of the various parties to the dispute, and the situation requires a firm U.S. stand against the intransigent and peace-hampering Israeli Government position.

Badran Appointed to Senate; Bin-Shakir Resigns

JN2112070489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—A royal decree has been issued appointing Prime Minister Mudar Badran as a Senate member effective 7 December. A royal decree also has been issued accepting the resignation of Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, from the Senate.

It is impermissible to hold the post of chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and be a Senate member at the same time.

Embezzlement Found in 4 Government Departments

JN1912083489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Central Audit Bureau has uncovered cases involving embezzlements of public funds at four official government departments and referred those responsible to the concerned courts, according to an announcement here Monday.

The announcement said that the bureau is in the process of referring other people, also involved in embezzlement, to the court for trial after completing preliminary procedures in this respect.

The announcement was made by the bureau's Director General Dr. Hashim al-Dabbas at a meeting with senior bureau officials and heads of control departments affiliated to his office.

He said thanks to the officials' scrutiny and investigations into various government spending, a total of JD [Jordanian Dinars] 379,625 has been saved in October and November of this year.

While discussing a number of matters related to the Central Audit Bureau, al-Dabbas called on the 36 control departments to work out a plan by which they can monitor spending on development schemes and follow up matters related to financial situations pertaining to schemes in various regions of the Kingdom.

He also asked that training courses and seminars be organised to increase the efficiency of the staff and improve their performance.

'Awn Comments on U.S. Operation in Panama

NC2012180289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today received delegations from Beirut University, Sayyidat al-Luwayzah, Lebanese University, Brih, al-Mutaylah, Front for the Support of Liberation, and al-Rum hospital doctors and nurses.

Addressing the delegations, Gen 'Awn said: We heard today's reports about the U.S. attack on Panama. Giving reasons for his decision to attack, President Bush said: Noriega is a narcotics smuggler who does not respect democracy and freedom and who rigged the elections.

'Awn added: Believe it or not, we do not deny the slogans which the American people raise nor do we deny freedom. However, even if the current U.S. Administration has two definitions for freedom, to us there only exists the true aspect of freedom.

Al-Hirawi Receives Message From Papal Nuncio

NC1512205089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a message from Papal Nuncio Msgr Pablo Puente on 12 December. The message reads as follows:

Your Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi:
Dear Mr President:
Since I have not had the honor of meeting your excellency, I would like to express my amicable feelings and regards in this message. I hope you received the greetings that I sent you a few days ago through some of our mutual friends. Let me assure you, Mr President, that I am following events in Lebanon with deep sympathy and concern, and I endeavor to keep the Vatican continuously informed of these events. The threat of any partition or war and the problems of sovereignty are a source of grave concern, and the Pope is always ready to do whatever is conducive to finding a just and appropriate solution for the Lebanese crisis.

Let me express to your excellency and to your honorable family my warm wishes for Christmas. I hope this season of peace will bring peace and stability to Lebanon.

Press Reports 'Secret Contacts' on Lebanon

LD2012154389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1146 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 20 (KUNA)—Press reports, published here, Wednesday revealed that secret contacts are currently taking place between Pope John Paul II, French President Francois Mitterrand and U.S. President George Bush focusing on the Lebanese crisis.

Daily AL-SIYASH quoted "well-informed" diplomatic sources as saying that the contacts deal with three major points including the Lebanese deteriorating situation, the Christian presence in Lebanon and the way to implement the al-Ta'if peace plan on the Christian sector forcibly.

The sources said the pope is convinced that implementation of the accord in Lebanon was the only way to impose the legitimacy and maintain Lebanon's unity.

The diplomatic sources said that the pope has appealed to the United States, the Soviet Union and France to form an international three-member committee to aid and coordinate with the Arab tripartite committee.

According to the sources, the paper said that Lebanon will witness calmness during the Christmas holidays and the following days until diplomatic contacts are resumed early next year. International guarantees will be provided to General Michel 'Awn to convince him to withdraw from power in favour of newly elected Lebanese President Ilyas Hirawi, the paper added.

In return Gen 'Awn will appoint or name a new Christian minister to represent him in the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, which will also include other Christian ministers, the sources said, underlining that a military operation will be considered against 'Awn if he challenged the Arab and international will.

'Arafat Plans To Alleviate 'Pressure' on 'Awn

NC1512145889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri conferred this morning with a delegation from Fatah-The Uprising headed by its leader Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha].

After the meeting, Abu-Musa said: I discussed the Palestinian and Lebanese issues with Minister Birri, as well as the conspiratorial schemes against the Palestinian cause.

Regarding the attack by Yasir 'Arafat's group on Sidon and al-Rumaylah, Abu-Musa stated: We received a tip-off which we relayed to everyone less than a month ago, that Yasir 'Arafat had devised a plan. I believe the plan still stands, and it will be put into effect if measures are taken against Michel 'Awn to get rid of the Zionized clique. He added: 'Arafat has a plan, along with his supporters, to carry out a wide-scale operation in the South, in the direction of Beirut; that is, to occupy the area of al-Rumaylah and Iqlim al-Kharrub in order to attract the largest possible force toward them with a view to alleviating the pressure on Michel 'Awn. I believe the plan still stands. Yesterday's operation served as a signal or declaration to the nationalist forces and to the brother Syrians that, if any action is taken against 'Awn, he is present here at their weak point, in the South.

Defense Minister on Measures To Confront 'Awn

NC1512210289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur said today that the measures which the legitimate government will use to ensure that President Ilyas al-Hirawi reaches B'abda Palace are bound to succeed. He declared: We will not allow the sectarian division to take place, nor will we allow a new Israel to be born.

He noted that General 'Awn will be confronted with all means available to the legitimate authorities, including the necessary military measures, to enable the Army command to regain its headquarters in al-Yarzah and to enable the Presidency to regain its headquartrers in B'abda.

Minister Mansur said he does not want to extend the deadline because this is a matter for the Army command.

Operation Against East Beirut From North Planned

NC1512085889 Nicosia AL-NASR in Arabic 15 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] AL-NASR has learned from Lebanese sources close to President Ilyas al-Hirawi that since a military operation against East Beirut via Suq al-Gharb has been ruled out, preparations are under way to carry out an operation to penetrate the eastern area from the north. According to the same sources, General 'Awn does not have enough Lebanese Army forces in the north, where the majority of the forces belong to the Lebanese Forces. The operation aims at reaching Kazinu Lubnan to tighten the noose around Gen 'Awn's troops.

Minister Returns From Muscat, Comments

NC2112113489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Minister 'Ali al-Khalil returned to Beirut from Muscat this morning. In Muscat, he gave the leaders of the six Gulf states letters from President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

In an arrival statement at the airport, Minister al-Khalil said: I conveyed a letter of thanks to Saudi King Fahd on behalf of the higher tripartite Arab committee that was set up at the Casablanca summit. During the meetings I held there, I explained the prevailing situation in Lebanon and the progress that has been made and is expected to be made in the implementation of the national accord document on the resolution of the Lebanese crisis.

Minister al-Khalil added: I also emphasized the legitimate authority's determination to restore its authority and full sovereignty over the whole of Lebanese territory and to remove the obstacles that are hindering the process of uniting the country, people, and institutions—obstacles that are currently represented by the phenomenon of rebellion and mutiny in B'abda and al-Yarzah. If this phenomenon continues, it could lead to destruction and Cypriotization.

Minister al-Khalil said: We focused on the question of liberating the South and western al-Biqa' from direct or indirect Israeli occupation by bolstering the valiant resistance and our people's steadfastness in the border areas. We also emphasized the need for concentrating internationally on the implementation of UN Resolution 425.

Minister al-Khalil added: We thanked the tripartite Arab committee for the efforts it is making—efforts that are conducive to further Arab and international solidarity with the legitimate authority's unification process. Naturally, we also discussed Arab aid for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon and the renewal of its infrastructure. Al-Khalil said that the tripartite committee is continuing with its efforts.

Ibrahimi Meets With Al-Hirawi in Ablah

NC1512205689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the tripartite Arab committee, arrived in Ablah at 1600 this afternoon. He immeditately met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi to brief him on the Arab tripartite committee's endeavors to help Lebanon resolve its crisis and enable the Lebanese legitimate government to extend its authority over the whole of Lebanese territory.

Al-Huss Leaves To Attend Arab-European Dialogue

NC2012130189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left Beirut International Airport for Paris at 1300 today. He is leading a delegation consisting of Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq; Ambassador Suhayl Shammas; the Foreign Ministry secretary general; and Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, who will participate in the European-Arab dialogue conference. Sa'id al-As'ad, Lebanese ambassador in Brussels, will join the delegation in Paris. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Leader Interviewed on Al-Ta'if

PM2012155789 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 18 Dec 89 pp 17-19

[Interview with Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah by Husayn Karim in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Karim] What is your comment on the ministerial committee's statement on the 'Awn question, which some observers considered the first strong open stand by the committee against him?

[Sa'adah] It is not strange for such a statement to be issued, on the grounds that the al-Ta'if agreement

enjoyed the consensus of the deputies who participated in the al-Ta'if meetings. It also enjoyed unprecedented large-scale Arab and international support, which no other agreements enjoyed in the past. This is why I believe that the higher Arab committee comprising the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd], King Hasan II, and President Chadli Bendjedid—who preserve their dignity and fulfill their promises despite their engagements and commitments. [sentence as published] In view of the preceding, I do not believe that the al-Ta'if agreement will be obstructed by the things happening in Lebanon. Thus I think the committee was honest and consistent with itself when it issued the recent statement, and I do not believe it will content itself with that statement. In fact there are practical steps which it will take and announce in time, and they will have positive results. [passage omitted]

[Karim] Developments in the eastern area [of Beirut] have produced two positions on the al-Ta'if agreement: The first rejects it and the second is against it. For how long can matters proceed in this way, and how do you visualize a way out?

[Sa'adah] The al-Ta'if agreement was misinterpreted—sometimes with ill intentions and other times with good intention. This is why we confronted the media campaign aimed against the al-Ta'if agreement and put matters right. We explained the truth about the al-Ta'if agreement and the circumstances which prompted us to accept it. This is because we consider that kind of Arab initiative is probably—I repeat, probably—the only one capable of rescuing us today. When we explained these matters, once the people understood the truth about the al-Ta'if agreement, new questions emerged and other problems occurred to the effect that the agreement would not be implemented. This is why today we are seeking to ensure proper implementation of the agreement, so that people, especially in the eastern area, will not continue to to think that the al-Ta'if agreement's fate will be similar to that of the past agreements, which disappeared for no reason. [passage omitted]

[Karim] It has been reported that there is a split inside the Phalangist Party over the issues being raised.

[Sa'adah] No, no. The party is democratic, and our democracy reached its peak and was clear on many occasions. When a decision is made by the overwhelming majority, those who disagree with the decision must comply or leave the party. This is known. Talk of a split is attributable to the fact that under the wave of demonstrations some Phalangists—perhaps because of their eagerness to maintain certain rules—are actually participating in the demonstrations. Recently, Dr Fu'ad Abu-Nadir participated in a demonstration, which was exploited to the extent that it was said that many thousands of Phalangists took part, although everyone knows the real number, and those who joined them had absolutely nothing to do with the party. [passage omitted]

[Karim] In the past you represented an open channel between the Phalangists and Damascus and you made numerous secret visits to the Syrian capital. In your view, can that role be renewed today?

[Sa'adah] We are ready to play any role which we see as being in Lebanon's interests. We do not complicate matters at all, and we state the facts as they are. I notice that clarity in such matters is desirable. I left al-Ta'if—allow me to use this phrase—enjoying everyone's respect, and at al-Ta'if I was not indifferent. On the contrary, I was most quarrelsome, but for the sake of the national interests, not out of any other considerations. Today if we see that the national interests require contacts with Syria to build a clear, open, future relationship in Lebanon's interests, we will not hesitate for even a minute to play such a role. [passage omitted]

[Karim] In view of your international and Arab contacts, have you formed a certain overview of the question of the continuation of duality in power?

[Sa'adah] It is not in Lebanon's interests for that duality to continue for a single day. We should all unite, adhere to the decisions we made, and expedite matters. Because if we really want to get rid of the Syrian presence in Lebanon, anyone who obstructs the al-Ta'if agreement is actually—whether or not he realizes it—working to retain the Syrian presence. This is because there are specific deadlines which we should start with, and any delay harms the national interests. [passage omitted]

U.S. Aggression, 'Invasion' of Panama Noted

JN2012172389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1635 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] New York—AFP has cited a diplomatic source saying the UN Security Council will hold an urgent meeting today to discuss the situation in Panama, based on a request from Nicaragua following the U.S. military aggression on Panama and interference in its internal affairs.

Reports from Panama said the U.S. aggression resulted in the deaths of at least 50 people and the wounding of hundreds. General Colin Powell, U.S. Armed Forces chief of staff, announced today that 9 Americans were killed and 29 others injured. U.S. President George Bush admitted the U.S. forces had many losses during the attack it carried out on the Panamanian Armed Forces locations.

Some reports said U.S. Government forces are besieging the headquarters of President General Antonio Noriega after shelling Army barracks and destroying the runways of two airports [names indistinct], while other reports said Noriega is outside the capital.

The Panama official radio station said Noriega will continue fighting the U.S. invasion. He called on the people to confront this blatant invasion.

The radio added the residents of Panama are demonstrating in the streets, carrying the flags of their country in protest against the U.S. invasion.

The U.S. invasion of Panama has been received with great international condemnation. The British prime minister was the sole supporter of this aggressive act. The British opposition Labor Party has criticized this invasion and said: This act has nothing to do with democracy. It merely is to preserve American interests in the Panama Canal region.

The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry issued a statement in which it described this invasion as a screaming violation of Panama's sovereignty. Nicaragua declared a state of alert among the ranks of its forces in anticipation of any emergency.

Commentaries Continue To Assail 'Awn Presence

'Foundering' in 'Crazy War'

JN2012170189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The intense efforts underway by the Lebanese legitimacy, represented by the Republic's president and the national accord government to regain Lebanon's unity—land, people, and institutions—have won all Lebanese support except that of rebellious 'Awn and a handful of outlaws who mistakenly believe backing the Zionist enemy and Baghdad's fascist regime in support of 'Awn's suicidal and partitionist plan can turn back the hands of time or disrupt the march of national accord that proceeds slowly but surely toward the realization of its objectives, namely, regaining Lebanon's unity and safeguarding its security—homeland, citizen, and stability. The march depends on unlimited support on the local, Arab, and international levels to accomplish this.

All indications reveal rebellious officer Michel 'Awn is foundering and using time to consolidate the partitionist status quo and trigger the fire of sedition. 'Awn no longer feels ashamed of admitting his contacts with the Zionist enemy and that he merely is carrying out a subversive, partitionist scheme aimed at spreading Zionist domination over Lebanon and threatening its security, as well as the security of the entire Arab nation.

It is clear 'Awn's rejection of the al-Ta'if document and his insistence on continuing to challenge the legitimacy and the will of the Lebanese people stems from Zionist instructions. These actions also are in implementation of a subversive and conspiratorial role that places Israeli interests above all considerations and ignores the Lebanese interests.

'Awn is concerned with carrying out this scheme, even if it would destroy Lebanon and drown it anew in the fire of seditions and internecine fighting—as long as this allows him to remain in power and satisfy his sick whims. This fact, which has become clear to all Lebanese, the Arab nation, and the entire world, must encourage intensifying efforts to end the rebellious phenomenon 'Awn represents. This phenomenon no longer is a threat only to the area 'Awn is capturing by force of arms, but also threatens Lebanese security and presages dire consequences. The Lebanese no longer can afford to pay these bills after what they already have paid in blood, destruction, and devastation.

Liquidating this phenomenon for this reason has become an urgent demand, around which all efforts and stances should be pooled to salvage Lebanon from its long-standing ordeal. The national accord document and the confident steps taken to translate it into action have laid down the actual pillars of national accord and its legitimate authority. Constructive steps to bolster accord, spread the legitimacy's authority over all Lebanese territory, and tighten the siege around the insubordinate officer 'Awn continue. Under these circumstances, the Lebanese people, who believe in their unity—land and people—are showing they are determined to promote the banner of a free and united Arab Lebanon, to discard all steps of fragmentation and subversion, and liquidate the Zionist partitionist scheme and its tools.

The Lebanese people, who foiled the 17 May agreement and defeated the Zionist invasion, possess the necessary militant expertise that qualifies them to defeat the rebellious officer 'Awn, as well the evil forces backing him—represented in the Zionist enemy and the tyrant Saddam

Husayn, who coordinates with Israel to harm Lebanon and the Arab nation. This is because the Baghdad tyrant sees in 'Awn's insubordination the other side of his crazy war and his continued conspiracies against the Arab nation, its central cause, and the struggle of its masses.

People 'Have Had Enough'

JN1212171489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] An end must be put to the anomalous state represented by the rebel officer Michel 'Awn. 'Awn and his suicidal designs must meet the fate faced by the agents and traitors who preceded him, and who sold their homeland and people, linking themselves to the homeland's enemies in exchange for the achievement of authoritarian illusions that contravene the nature of life and logic. Events in the eastern area [of Beirut], which 'Awn desperately has tried and continues to try to steal from the Lebanese homeland, confirm the anomalous phenomenon cannot forever continue. Though this phenomenon managed briefly to slow the train of the solution, the train must continue its movement, supported by an overwhelming national will, until all of Lebanon reaches the station of security and stability.

'Awn has used every means that would help him go ahead with his suicidal designs. He has acted in coordination and cooperation with the Israeli enemy and its agents. His destructive instincts were in harmony with the evil schemes of this enemy and of the Baghdad tyrant, who is full of black rancor against any Arab role and, in particular, against Syria's pan-Arab role. Syria's role prevented him, during his mad war against the Iranian revolution, from getting the Arab nation involved in this war, the sole goal of which was to destroy Arab capabilities and prevent revolutionary Iran, the ally of the Arabs, from taking part in the main battle against the Zionist enemy. 'Awn also has tried to draw the sympathy of all those who continue to nurse old colonialist delusions and who harbor ill will against the Arabs due to sinister racist motives.

In Lebanon, 'Awn exercised terrorism and repression, maneuvered a great deal, and lied even more. Having found himself alone and forsaken, he turned students into a human shield to protect him, and forced them to assemble around the palace he usurped. He turned them into hostages to practice extortion through them, exactly as the Zionist enemy used to do when it cowardly and despicably placed a Lebanese child or citizen in front of its tanks or military vehicles to prevent resistance men from confronting it. 'Awn again proved he is the enemy's obedient student who learns from it and fulfills all its desires.

The chain of legitimate Lebanese authority has been completed. Lebanon now has a president, national government, Chamber of Deputies, and an Army chief. With the completion of this chain, the last pretext used by 'Awn—legitimacy—falls away. He thus has been shown up as a mere rebellious officer with no other capacity, and the powerless eastern area has been turned into an anomalous phenomenon experiencing a state of horror and anxiety. The question is: How long will the Zionized 'Awn phenomenon continue, and can this mutineer thwart the Lebanese people's will? Will this reckless, power-obsessed general be able to undermine legitimacy and the Arab solution in Lebanon? Can the bat-like night visitors, sent by despot Saddam and the Israeli enemy agent Antoine Lahd, save him from his isolation and the fate awaiting him? The clear answer is this is impossible. These are mere illusions present only in his and his masters' imaginations. These are fatal illusions similar to those that got him into his current helpless state; he is rejected by the eastern area itself and by all its key figures and leaders. He also is rejected and condemned by the entire Lebanese people and the whole Arab and international community. This maniac hiding in the B'abda Palace haven behind the bodies of students will not be able to drag anybody else into the fate that awaits him. If he really wants to commit suicide, as he says, let him die alone: The Lebanese have had enough of the death and destruction he has caused.

Lebanese legitimacy, along with all nationalist and spiritual Lebanese leaders, demand their indisputable right. Although they have allowed all this time for 'Awn's removal and for an end to divisional inclinations, their statements and practical measures indicate they are determined to regain the eastern area and its people. They will not allow 'Awn and his enemy and rancorous supporters to exploit the time allowed for a political solution to achieve their goal of entrenching the partition and disunity of Lebanon. The legitimate authority's aim is to safeguard Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and future. The legitimate authority is capable of achieving this objective according to what seems most suitable.

The legitimate authority will not be alone. Syria, the closest sister state, supports it. Syria never has and never will hesitate extending any aid requested by the Lebanese legitimate authority to control the entire territory and save sisterly Lebanon from the conspiracy.

Newspaper Cited on Foundations of 'New Lebanon'

JN1612093089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "How Can Summer and Winter Come at the Same Time?" AL-THAWRAH says: Lebanese legitimacy—president and reconciliation government—has given enough time for the political movement to use all available means to end the mutiny and implement the al-Ta'if document, which provides a solution to the abnormal situation. The Lebanese legitimate authorities will not allow the 'Awn phenomenon to become a dangerous fait accompli in the Lebanese and Arab fold. National reconciliation calls for building a

new Lebanon on just and equal foundations that will end social, political, and democratic injustice and coercion; a Lebanon, as the comprehensive national framework for all its sons—with all their factions and trends—that can fulfill their potential and creativity; and a Lebanon playing its civilized and Arab role utilizing all its democratic potential. This new Lebanon refuses to be dragged into the past, back to the era before al-Ta'if, rejects all attempts to torpedo its great future hopes, and consequently rejects all forms of partition that lie behind false and misleading slogans. The new Lebanon will be a single, united Lebanon with Arab aspirations and affiliation, in spite if the plots against it. Lebanon will enrich and be enriched by its Arab nation; neither can live without the other. This is the will of Lebanese legitimacy, and its decisions will not be made by others.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Although it seems this matter has taken a long time, it never will become a fait accompli, regardless of dangers and difficulties. Lebanon has survived more difficult and more serious tests.

Hafiz al-Asad's Syria will keep the promise it made to Lebanon, namely, that it would give everything the Lebanese legitimacy asks for and seeks in building tomorrow's Lebanon.

Commentary on Double Standards in World Politics

JN1612152889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is natural the Lebanese should be against continuing the aberrant state of affairs in their country, as represented by 'Awn's continued arrogation of power. Swayed by his whims and a sick mind, 'Awn, against the wishes of his countrymen, is imposing himself on part of the country. It also is to be expected an authority voted into office by the country's legislators should refuse to share its responsibilities with an individual, even a particular group, or give them a free hand to do what they please with the homeland's destiny. Neither will anyone who has the interests of Lebanon and the Arab nation at heart acquiesce to such a state of affairs. The resulting dangers to overall Arab security posed by a scheming enemy who lies in wait just are too great.

It is irresponsible and tendentious that any party should turn a blind eye to these facts. Therefore there is a strong case for 'Awn's removal, and this should be approached as a top priority. The al-Ta'if agreement fashioned a blueprint to end Lebanon's 15-year old plight and offered a long-awaited ray of hope. It has won Arab, international, as well as overwhelming Lebanese support. A democratcially-elected president and a government of national accord was duly installed and went about its business, also based on the al-Ta'if agreement. Any obstruction or incitement then must be viewed as a flagrant assault on Lebanon's legitimate authorities, its constitution, and sovereignty. In the eyes of international law it virtually is a serious attack from across the border. On the other hand, whatever assistance is extended to the country's legally-instituted authorities in their drive to sweep away obstacles obstructing or delaying the execution of their tasks, amounts to help in repelling an external attack against an Arab country.

It is instructive to pause at the phenomenon of double standards in world politics. Inevitably, the question of the motives behind a certain world power that, while it often enough has intervened in various arenas, now chooses to ignore facts and adopt a hostile posture toward the free choice of the Lebanese people and to the right of their legally-constituted government to assume its duties.

With Lebanon in the throes of a rebirth, and all Lebanese across the political spectrum and throughout the country having freely opted for salvation, it will be impossible for any party or quarter to halt the Lebanese march or manipulate their will. Nor will the clock be turned back.

Khaddam, Red Cross Chairman Discuss Kidnapping

JN1912203189 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at 1315 today received Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], and his delegation. Talks centered on the kidnapping of two ICRC workers in southern Lebanon.

The vice president voiced the Syrian authorities' strong condemnation of the kidnapping, which goes against the human and moral values Syria observes, especially as the two were carrying out a humanitarian mission.

Mr Khaddam affirmed Syria's support and concern for exerting all efforts to solve the problem.

Al-Shar' in Paris for Euro-Arab Conference

JN2012202289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Paris—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Paris this afternoon, heading the Syrian Arab delegation to the ministerial meeting of the Euro-Arab dialogue. He was received by Mr (Thierry de Bossier), French minister of state for cooperation affairs; Mr Hunayn Hatim, Syrian ambassador in Paris; and the embassy staff.

Mr al-Shar' left Tripoli this morning after conveying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, containing a number of issues of interest to the two fraternal countries. This occurred during the visit he made with Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for external affairs, to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

TISHRIN Notes Israeli Factor

JN2012144789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Dec 89

Damascus, 20 Dec (SANA)—In its commentary today, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The extraordinary the Euro-Arab dialogue conference will begin today in Paris. Representatives of 22 Arab states and the 12 European Economic Community [ECC] member states will participate.

The paper adds: The Euro-Arab dialogue has special significance at this stage, at which many necessary elements and aspects of the relationship between the two parties have been formed, based on mutual interests and the clear European understanding of Arab issues, especially relating to the Palestine question and the Lebanese issue.

The paper emphasizes the Euro-Arab dialogue has not achieved anticipated results in all fields. The reason behind this lies with Europe itself, not with the Arabs, who have worked and still work with good will to bolster relations with Western European states, provided this does not take place at the expense of their interests in defense of their pan-Arab issues, especially relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Israeli occupation of parts of the Arab territories.

The paper asserts Western European states not only have ignored Arab rights, but also worked continuously in line with Israeli policies. It adds: What joins the Arabs and the Europeans makes it incumbent on the Europeans to take the initiative in proving their sincerity toward this relationship, take the necessary stands to support Arab rights, and resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in a just manner. When this is realized, the economic aspect naturally will dominate Euro-Arab relations.

Ba'th Official Addresses University Conference

JN2012192989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Tishrin University branch of the party conducted its annual conference today in the presence of Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Fayiz al-Nasir, member of the party regional command; and 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-Fakhr, member of the Party's inspection and observation committee. [passage omitted]

At the Tishrin University council, Comrade Al-Ahmar reviewed development of the party's struggle and ideology during various stages and expansion of its popular foundations all over the great homeland.

He discussed transformations and achievements in various sectors of society that will establish a firm basis for the new, ideal model of a unified Arab socialist society, which we continue our struggle to realize.

Comrade Al-Ahmar stated that the party, under the leadership of the comrade secretary general, is the basis for the direction of all that has happened and will happen, and that all this has transformed Syria's role into an effective and influential one. He said: The ideology of the secretary general and his practices are the foundations for every development.

He pointed out individual and objective causes of difficulties and steps taken to deal with them. He pointed to the role of the cohesive internal front in the country, rallying around the leadership of the struggling Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. He said this role has effectively influenced the country to defend itself and confront plots targeting the causes of the Arab struggle, including its central cause, and has manifest itself politically through the experience of the Progressive National Front, which is considered a model in Third World countries.

Comrade Al-Ahmar also reviewed new developments in the Arab and international arena. Regarding Lebanon, he said: Despite the fact Lebanon has managed to move toward overcoming its crisis, especially after the al-Ta'if accord, by approving that document, electing the Republic's president, and forming the accord government, it still faces obstacles and abnormal situations, such as the mutinous 'Awn phenomenon supported by the suspect Iraqi regime, Israel, and outside forces in the imperialist West, which increases his stubborness. He added Syria continues providing support to the legitimacy so that it can extend its authority over all Lebanese territories and liberate southern Lebanon from the Zionist occupier.

Comrade Al-Ahmar praised the intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people, which has affirmed the struggle to retrieve the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and formation of an independent state on their homeland. He said: We support the continuation of the intifadah. We work toward realizing Arab solidarity. Because Syria always has been the initiator, it now is working with the brothers in Arab countries to realize complete Arab unity.

Comrade Al-Ahmar also reviewed developments in the international arena. [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmar, Nasirite Delegation Discuss Intifadah

JN1112054989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received at noon today an Egyptian Nasirite Socialist Party delegation headed by Brother Kamal Hafiz Hilmi, Nasirite Party General Secretariat member, who is visiting Syria in connection with activities marking the 3d year of the popular intifadah in the occupied Arab territories.

The meeting dealt with the intifadah and the popular, party, and political figures' activities supporting and perpetuating it. It also dealt with the role of Arab organizations and parties in mobilizing Arab public

opinion to reinforce steadfastness against the U.S.-Zionist capitulatory schemes, which aim to end the Arab struggle toward liberation, unity, and progress.

Comrade Al-Ahmar reaffirmed the necessity of coordination and contact between popular and political organizations in Syria and Egypt. He also expressed the position adopted by the Ba'th Party and its revolution in the Syrian Arab Republic, which advocates continuing the struggle against opposition, side by side with the Palestinian people and their factions. It also supports the heroic intifadah in the occupied territories, the resistance in southern Lebanon, and the steadfast people in the occupied Golan until Arab territories are liberated and the Palestinian Arab people regain their legitimate rights of repatriation, self-determination, and establish their independent state on the land of their homeland—Palestine.

The meeting also dealt with developments in Lebanon. They agreed to support the legitimate Lebanese authorities in carrying out their effective role, eliminate the anomalous obstacle represented by rebel 'Awn, implement the al-Ta'if agreement as the only way to safeguard Lebanon's unity and Arabism, end the Zionist occupation in southern Lebanon, and resist schemes of partition and fragmentation.

The Nasirite Socialist Party expressed appreciation for Syria's efforts, its role in helping Lebanon achieve national accord between its sons, and for facing the Zionist and imperialistic schemes. The Nasirite Party also expressed appreciation for the effective role Syria assumed under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve the pan-Arab objectives of the Arab nation.

Afghanistan

Rab

PM bani Interviewed on Talks With U.S. Envoy

in A0012160789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT rabic 15 Dec 89 p 5

[Int
Gverview with Burhanuddin Rabbani, Afghan Interim Jamernment reconstruction minister and leader of the Pesliyat-e Eslami, by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in hawar; date not given]

[Exc
and erpts] [Zaydan] Professor Rabbani, what did you did the U.S. representative talk about and what results you achieve?

[Ra
holbbani] As usual, when Tomsen visits Peshawar he his is ordinary meetings with the mujahidin to explain mee political contacts and moves. [passage omitted] In my recetings with him he revealed that the Soviets have toldntly placed emphasis on the military solution. He to I us about his discussion with the Soviet ambassador Kablamabad, Viktor Yakunin, when the latter said the menul government was strong, that his country's governthe it wanted a military solution, and that Najibullah, head of the Kabul regime, was in a strong position. We
begitold Tomsen that we mujahidin had from the very milinning maintained that the Soviets insisted on a theytary solution and did not want a political solution; mili said their departure from Afghanistan was not a on tary but a propaganda move. Their recent emphasis couhe military aspect is as great as when they were in the highntry, in fact it is even greater because they have sent largely effective missiles to the country and allocated theye sums of money for military tasks. Furthermore, tias, have sent in the Yozganin [as transliterated] miliand, who are Russians trained that know our language are sent in as Afghans.

[Za
ydan] How big are these militias?

[Ra
Thebbani] It has been said they number about 30,000. y attack areas under the control of the mujahidin.

[Za
istaydan] Has anything new occurred regarding Afghanwhen since the Malta talks between the two superpowers, re Afghanistan was on the agenda?

[Ra
timbbani] Peter Tomsen told me it would take a long ande to explain what happened during the Malta talks Mal he preferred to brief the cabinet collectively on the lta summit.

[Za
menydan] Professor Rabbani, so far the U.S. Governyount has not recognized the mujahidin government. Do sense any change in U.S. policy toward you?

[Ra
frombbani] The Americans want a broad government mann the supporters of Zahir Shah, the field commanders, and party leaders residing in Iran. They I saphasize elections with the participation of all parties. aid, through Tomsen, that I agree to elections in principle but, realistically, it is difficult to do and implement this. [passage omitted]

At this stage I prefer to concentrate on two points: struggle work and military solution, and elections, provided they are not a temporary solution and not just an injection that would temporarily give the patient some relief from pain but no cure. The matter should be tackled at the roots.

[Zaydan] U.S. representative Tomsen has told me that the tribal leaders must participate in the government. Is this a new request?

[Rabbani] Their mentioning that is something new. They raise a new issue every time. That means that their conditions will never end. They find and fabricate new conditions every day.

[Zaydan] Engineer Hekmatyar has raised the principle of parallel suspension of supplies to the warring parties in Afghanistan; in other words, the United States would suspend its aid to the mujahidin and the Soviets would suspend their aid to the Kabul regime. What do you think of that idea?

[Rabbani] I do not accept that proposal. The Soviets raised it before. The Kabul regime has many weapons, enough to sustain the fighting for a long time. If we deprive ourselves of the chances of aid which we must have in the face of Soviet armament, our position would be weakened. Calls must be made for the suspension of Soviet supplies. International pressure should be brought to bear on them to halt their supplies to the Kabul regime and at the same time concerted calls should be made for aid to the mujahidin to enable them to face the heavily armed enemy.

[Zaydan] We notice that the supplies reaching the mujahidin are not meant to enable them to score a quick and decisive victory but only to control one or two military positions for a few days, after which they would run out of ammunition and the regime would regain control of these positions. What is your opinion?

[Rabbani] The supplies reaching the mujahidin are really not enough. They are just minimal and do not cure the patient of his illness but just barely keeps him alive. These supplies have no logistic importance compared with the massive arms received by the Kabul regime's forces. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] Professor Rabbani, how would you describe the military position of the mujahidin?

[Rabbani] Some good victories have been scored recently in Mazar-e Sharif. The mujahidin liberated more than 20 military positions until they reached the outskirts of Mazar-e Sharif, the capital of the province. The same thing happened in Faryab and Baghlan, but an ammunition shortage restricts mujahidin military activity and prevents them from mounting large-scale operations.

Mujahidin Influence on East Bloc Upheaval Seen

BK2012003089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1842 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Dec 19 (AFP)—Fundamentalist guerrilla leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar on Tuesday said the mujahidin's jihad (holy war) in Afghanistan had direct bearing on the current upheaval in the communist bloc.

"The dramatic changes in Eastern Europe are the result of our jihad," said Mr. Hekmatyar, who is also foreign minister of the resistance's Afghan Interim Government (AIG), set up after the Soviet troops ended a decade-old occupation of Afghanistan in February.

The radical leader strongly denied suggestions that changes in the East bloc were taking place because of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, or openness.

Moscow could not face the Muslim resistance and it failed to protect the "crumbling regime" of President Najibullah in Kabul which inspired other Soviet allies, he said at a news conference in this northwestern border city.

The guerrilla leader, who heads the Hezb-e Eslami faction of the rebels fighting to topple the pro-Moscow Kabul regime, said the AIG was working on various plans to overthrow the regime. He voiced full support for a proposal by moderate guerrilla leader and chief justice Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani for elections under the AIG.

"The present status quo could be ended with the holding of elections," which he said could lead to a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue.

Mujahidin Kill KHAD Officer in Laghman Province

BK2112060589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin killed the KHAD chief of Laghman Province, who is also commander of the Kabul regime's antiaircraft unit in that province. The Afghan Interim Government's news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] has reported that the mujahidin have captured three of the Kabul regime's security posts on the Kabul highway near Jabal os Saraj in Parvan Province.

'Extremists' Launch Rockets at Kabul City 20 Dec

LD2012211889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Pakistan-backed extremists today committed another crime against the people of Kabul by firing four surface-to-surface rockets at residential areas. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that as a result of the firing, which was carried out according to the state terrorist plans of the United States and Pakistan by their puppets and which came from the direction of Paghman, four of our compatriots were wounded. The injured were immediately taken to a hospital and are place in intensive care. The rockets caused material damage as well.

Armed Forces Operations in Various Areas Detailed

LD1812215389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] The units and companies of the heroic Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province are mainly engaged in fortifying and equipping their defense lines and positions.

The armed extremists, Saudi Wahhabis and Pakistani militarists have been unable to resort to any active combat operations as a result of pressure by the Armed Forces.

The BAKHTAR military section, quoting an authoritive source in the Armed Forces reports that during the last 4 days the joint forces of the enemy have fired heavy weapons at the security posts of the garrison of Nangarhar Province. In retaliation to these attacks, artillery, air, and missile strikes launched against the gathering places and positions of the enemy groups. As a result 183 people from the joint forces of the enemy were eliminated from the combat ranks and nine rocket launchers, four mortars, four BM-1 systems, four arms and ammunition depots, and six vehicles laoded with arms and ammunition were destroyed. The report adds that six civilians were injured as a result of enemy heavy weapons fire.

The report adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Khowst Major District are ready to foil any type of possible attack by the armed extremist groups supported by Pakistan with high combat capability and high morale; they are defending their positions with bravery and heroism.

In the last 4 days the joint forces of the enemy have fired heavy weapons at Gardeyz and Khowst cities and on the security posts of the Khowst garrison's defense lines. In retaliation, artillery, air, and rocket strikes were carried out on enemy positions. As a result, 122 warmongerers were eliminated from the combat ranks in the last 4 days, and 10 mortars, 5 recoilless guns, 2 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, 2 rocket launcher systems, and a missile system were destroyed. The report adds that as a result of enemy heavy weapons fire, two Armed Forces personnel were martyred and two others were wounded.

According to the same source, in the last 4 days, armed extremist groups supported by Pakistan and Saudi Wahhabis who have gathered around Mehterlam city fired heavy weapons on the security posts located along the transportation road of Laghman-Jalalabad cities. As a result, three personnel of the armed forces and three civilians were martyred, five children were wounded, and four houses were destroyed in Mehterlam city. In

retaliation to these criminal actions, the units and companies launched artillery attacks on the positions and gathering places of the joint forces of the enemy. As a result, 89 men from the armed extremist groups and Saudi Wahhabis were eliminated from combat ranks. A system for launching missilies, two recoilless guns, four mortars, three DShK's, four types of various weapons, six strongholds, and two arms and ammunition depots were destroyed.

The hero units and companies of the Armed Forces are carrying out their patriotic duties with high morale with the all-round cooperation of the brave people of Laghman.

According to another report, in the last 4 days the extremists supported by Pakistan have fired heavy weapons at Trinkot city, Oruzgan Province, and its security posts. As a result, eight Armed Forces personnel and four children were wounded. The units and companies subjected to artillery strikes the positions of the joint fores of the enemy. As a result, 93 warmongers were eliminated from combat ranks and a number of their light and heavy weapons were destroyed.

Mujahidin Capture 7 Posts, Down Transport Plane

BK1912090289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have captured seven Kabul regime security posts in an attack on Khvajeh Ghar in Takhar Province. The Afghan Interim Government news agency, MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, says the mujahidin killed 50 and captured 16 Kabul regime soldiers in the attack. In retaliation, the Kabul regime forces carried out heavy bombings on residential areas near Khvajeh Ghar and (Pol-e Dam), killing three civilians and destroying several houses.

According to another report, the mujahidin shot down a Kabul regime military transport plane near Mazar-e Sharif, killing all but the pilot of the aircraft.

India

Lok Sabha Raises 'U.S. Intervention in Panama'

BK2112090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Opposition members in the Lok Sabha today demanded a statement from the government on the reservation issue. Expressing concern over the current agitation in Uttar Pradesh and in some other parts of the country, they alleged that the government has failed to tackle the problem. The issue sparked off agitated exchanges between the treasury and the opposition benches. While the Congress-I members alleged that the views expressed by the prime minister and the deputy prime minister on the issue are contradictory, ruling party members refuted the charge and said that the issue is being used for partisan ends.

This and several other matters ranging from the Kashmir situation to the U.S. intervention in Panama were raised in the first zero hour of the new Lok Sabha. With members vying to speak and draw the attention of the speaker, many a time voices got drowned in the noise.

Members from both sides also wanted a discussion on the communal situation in the country, particularly in Bihar. They said effective relief should be provided to the riot victims of Bhagalpur. Janata Dal members demanded central intervention in Bihar, alleging that the state government has failed to maintain law and order.

The Congress-I members charged the central government with giving in to terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the recent kidnapping of Dr Miss Rubina [daughter of home minister]. The treasury benches argued that the state government handled the matter and blamed the ruling alliance for the deterioration in law and order situation, giving rise to antinational elements.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members demanded dismissal of the Jammu and Kashmir government.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr P. Upendra, said that the government will not run away from any of these issues. He said the house will have the opportunity to discuss all subjects during the 3-day debate on the motion of thanks to the president's address. Mr Upendra said that the present government has inherited a number of problems and some of these have already been dealt with in the president's address. The speaker, Mr Rabi Ray, also assured the members that they will have many occasions to voice their viewpoints.

Intervention 'Deplored'

BK2112124289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] India has deplored the U.S. armed intervention in Panama and hoped that it will end soon and the American forces will be withdrawn quickly.

Making a suo moto statement in the Lok Sabha today, the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, said that the Government of India is deeply concerned at the U.S. action in Panama, which has led to loss of innocent lives.

Lok Sabha Discusses Vote of Confidence Motion

BK2112093589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha has taken up for discussion a motion moved by the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, seeking a vote of confidence in the Union Council of Ministers.

Initiating the discussion, Mr A.R. Antulay, Congress-I, said the National Front government is a minority government which has to exist only with the support of the

other parties. He wondered whether the government can clearly outline its stands on various issues like the Punjab tangle, the problems of Sri Lankan Tamils, and the Rama Jamabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine in Uttar Pradesh] issue. In his hour-long speech marked by frequent and noisy interruptions, Mr Antulay sought to highlight the differing perceptions within the ruling front and its allies, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the left parties.

Amid cheers from his party benches, Mr Antulay said that Mr Rajiv Gandhi as the leader of the single largest party in the House could have formed the government, but did not stake his claim out of magnanimity. He said it is true that the people have not given their fullest mandate to the Congress-I, but, at the same time, they have not given the Janata Dal, which comprises just one-fourth of the House, the right to rule.

Mr Antulay also doubted whether the new government will be able to fulfill the promises it made in its election manifesto because if it oversteps the policies mentioned in the BJP manifesto, it may lose the BJP support. He described the government as one existing under the mercies of the rightists and the charity of the leftists. Mr Antulay (?indicated) that his party may not oppose the motion but his party members may abstain from voting.

Earlier, the House witnessed procedural wrangle for some time when the motion was moved by the prime minister. The discussion is to continue.

Government Wins Vote of Confidence

BK2112133889 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1330 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The Vishwanath Pratap Singh government has won the vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha today. The house adopted an official motion seeking the confidence of the house by voice vote. The Congress-I members abstained from voting.

Gandhi on Cooperation With Government, Punjab

BK1912163089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said his party will play a most constructive role as an opposition party in parliament and will provide cooperation to government as long as it pursues the policies rightly. Addressing the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi this evening, he said if the government deviates and does anything antipeople, the Congress-I will not tolerate and will be most critical.

Mr Gandhi said the government wanted his party to cooperate with it on Punjab, but did not provide any base paper for discussions for Sunday's all-party meeting. He said neither the Congress-I nor the two major Akali Dals—the Mann and the Badal groups—were taken into confidence, and it also did not clarify its stand on Anandpur Saheb resolution and the demand for the so-called Khalistan. He said: Unle
makes its stand clear, we cannot give
it on the issue of Punjab.
less the government
any cooperation to

Center Forced Release of '
'Terrorists'

*BK2012043189 Delhi Domestic Servic
0240 GMT 20 Dec 89*
ice in English

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr
charged the National Front governmer
Jammu and Kashmir government
terrorists in exchange for the daught
Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed.
ever, said that he was happy that th
daughter has been released.
Rajiv Gandhi, has
nent with forcing the
to release the five
ter of Union Home
. Mr Gandhi, how-
the home minister's

Mr Gandhi was addressing the Congr
party in New Delhi yesterday evenin
the Congress-I will never compron
self-respect. He said his party will ext
the government as long it pursued the
said if the government deviates and
people, the Congress-I will not tolera
ress-I parliamentary
ng. Mr Gandhi said
mise with national
tend cooperation to
e policies rightly. He
does anything anti-
ate it.

Janata Dal Contests Gandhi Rema
arks on Kidnapping

*BK2012125289 Delhi Domestic Servi
1230 GMT 20 Dec 89*
ice in English

[Text] The Janata Dal has refuted
Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gand
pressurized the Jammu and Kashmir
free the five terrorists in exchange for
union home minister's daughter. Tal
New Delhi today, the Janata Dal spo
Reddy, also contested the Congress-I
problem was brought very close to a
Reddy alleged that the policy of shor
Gandhi got Punjab bogged down in
d the claim of the
dhi, that the center
r government to set
for the release of the
king to newsmen in
okesman, Mr Jaipal
I claim that Punjab
a solution by it. Mr
rtcut pursued by Mr
a deep crisis.

Finance Minister Holds First Ne
ews Conference

*BK1312152189 Delhi Domestic Servi
1430 GMT 13 Dec 89*
ice in English

[Text] The union finance minister, M
ate, announced in New Delhi today t
will seek a vote on account in parl
instance. A regular budget will b
months later. Addressing his first ne
taking over as the finance minister,
he would like the budget to reflect
new government and does not want t
the infrastructure of the previous re
Mr Madhu Dandav-
that the government
liament in the first
e presented a few
ews conference after
Mr Dandavate said
the thinking of the
o base the budget on
gime.

Answering a volley of questions, Mr
the government will present a white p
economic situation in the country
session opening next week.
Dandavate said that
paper on the present
in the parliament

The finance minister stated that an e
on the pricing policy. He expressed
government will be able to control
xercise is under way
confidence that the
the prices. On the

National Front's poll promise of writing off the farmers' loans, Mr Dandavate said that the government has already initiated such steps in that direction. The government will ensure that affluent sections and willful defaulters do not take advantage of this facility.

Mr Dandavate said a new development model will be introduced in a phased manner to protect the interest of cottage, small-scale, and other sectors. The basic thrust of the efforts will be on employment generation. The finance minister assured that the poorer sections will be not be left at the mercy of market forces. He pointed out that the government has inherited a rather difficult situation. The external debt burden is expected to be around 1,000 billion rupees by the end of the financial year.

Answering a question, Mr Dandavate said various procedures for licensing and the taxation laws will be simplified. The government, he said, is committed to check wasteful expenditure. He said firm steps will be taken to curb black money.

National Front Presidium Meets; Rao, Singh Speak

BK2012041889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] The National Front chairman, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, has said that the Front will work for uplifting the poorest of the poor and bring new hope in their lives. He was addressing the first meeting of the presidium after the National Front government came to power at the center. He hoped that several projects of the state governments pending for clearance will be cleared expeditiously by the new government.

Speaking on the occasion, the convenor of the front and the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, said that the government will fulfill the pledges made in the front's manifesto. He listed several measures already taken in this regard.

Others who attended the meeting included Mr Devi Lal, Mr Karunanidhi, Mr P.K. Mohanta, Mr Omprakash Chauthala, and Mr Biju Patnaik. Many union ministers also attended the meeting of the presidium.

Official Urges Measures To Curb Vote Rigging

BK1412131489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr Peri Sastri, has suggested stringent measures against booth capturing and misuse of official machinery. He has proposed that the candidate for whose benefit booth capture is committed should be debarred from holding any office for a long period, besides awarding him imprisonment. Similarly, any minister interfering with the election process in a clandestine manner should be debarred from holding public office for at least a decade.

Mr Sastri was addressing the chief electoral officers of states where elections are due early next year at a meeting in New Delhi today. Mr Sastri called for special measures to prevent intimidation of weaker sections and women voters. He disclosed that the commission is processing a proposal for a reserve fund for paying compensation in cases of death of persons while on polling duty.

The chief election commissioner said before and during the election process the government should take special precautions to ensure that the official machinery and official positions are not used directly or indirectly for furthering the interest of the party in power. Describing a booth capturer as a thief of the worst order and a rapist of democracy, Mr Sastri strongly pleaded for much more stringent punishment for such a crime.

Referring to complaints of omission of eligible voters in the electoral rolls, he said that the commission is working out a long-term strategy for automatic updating of the rolls.

Iran

Commentary on U.S. 'Intervention' in Panama

LD2012141289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1116 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Unattributed commentary: "The U.S. Military Intervention in Panama"]

[Text] On the basis of the latest reports received, the U.S. military intervention in Panama at last became a reality. In view of the increasing discords between the United States and Panama in recent weeks and the clash between the Panamanian military forces and U.S. troops, this measure by the Bush government was not unexpected. According to the statement made by the White House spokesman, last night George Bush ordered the military attack on Panama. This attack's objective is to arrest Noriega, Panamanian Government head, and to transfer him to the United States.

Earlier this week the Panamian National Assembly presented General Noriega as the head of Panama's Government and declared that a state of war existed between Panama and the United States. The Panamanian National Assembly also rejected Fernando Manfredo, the Bush government's candidate to take over management of the Panama Canal, and called him a traitor. In return, the Bush government refused to accept the Panamanian Government's candidate for the management of the Panama Canal and called the Panamanian Government, headed by Noriega, "an illegal government." In the wake of these actions, limited clashes occurred between Panama's military forces and U.S. troops, which resulted in the death of a U.S. officer.

During Panama's presidential elections this spring, in which the United States expected to secure its presence

in Panama by directing the elections, the U.S. policy failed as the Panamanian Government declared the election results null and void. In order to make up for its failure, last Mehr [22 September-22 October] the United States staged an abortive coup d'etat in Panama in order to install a government of its own choice. On the basis of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's remarks, the objective of this coup d'etat, too, was to arrest Noriega. The Panamanian Government's dislike of the U.S. presence in Panama and the failure of U.S. policies were threatening the U.S. presence and hegemony in Panama. Because of its strategic position and the canal, Panama enjoys a particular place in U.S. policy. The U.S. presence in Panama, in addition to securing its control over the strategic Panama Canal, can be exploited as a bridgehead to dominate all of Latin America.

On the basis of the Panama Canal Treaty signed between the U.S. and Panamanian Governments, a Panamanian subject should be chosen by the Panamanian Government and endorsed by the U.S. Senate to take charge of the canal's management. When Noriega's power in Panama increased, not only did it become difficult to reach agreement on one individual to take charge of the canal management, but the United States, which expected to take control of the canal after termination of the treaty or to renew the treaty, faced difficulty. Noriega, who is considered an obstacle to U.S. policy in Panama and the Latin American region, has worried the United States, and as a result the U.S. Government resorted to any measure to topple him. The United States plans to topple Noriega and replace him with a government acceptable to itself so as to continue its domination over the canal and its arrogant hegemony over Central and South America. In order to reach this objective, it never has refrained from demonstrating its might and from ignoring international rules and regulations.

Foreign Ministry Condemns 'Invasion'

LD2012165889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] In a statement, our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while condemning the invasion of Panama by the U.S. forces with the objective of overthrowing the central government, has termed that action a blatant violation of the sovereignty of another country, ignoring international norms.

The statement reads, in part: The action by the U.S. Government fully demonstrates its aggressive nature and the prevalance in that country of the logic of force over the policy of that country. This is in full violation of the UN Charter and the principles of international law governing the relations among states.

In another part of the statement, it said: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while rejecting pretexts used by the United States to embark on aggression, expects the international community, specifically the UN Organization, to adopt the necessary measures to condemn this aggression and to prevent the continuation of the bullying U.S. policies.

Cabinet Calls Act 'Terrorism'

LD2012173189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] At the cabinet meeting held this afternoon under the chairmanship of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the most important problems and events in the world were debated. The cabinet condemned the U.S. military invasion of Panama as an official [as heard] and unjustifiable aggression. The cabinet called this ugly and bullying act by the aggressionist U.S. Government the most revealing example of state-sponsored terrorism, and as such, in violation of all international norms and regulations. It announced that the UN Security Council and other international organizations must take action, in a serious manner, to confront the aggressionist and extortionist attitude governing the United States and thus save the world from the threat of insecurity and terrorism. Otherwise, insecurity stemming from such aggressionist measures will drive the world a crisis.

The Cabinet report states that in the meeting cabinet committee reports were debated and surveyed. A number of executive organ proposals which were approved by the committees were also approved by the cabinet.

UK Reaction Reported

LD2012151789 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] London, Dec 20, IRNA—The British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, has expressed her "full support" for the American military invasion of Panama, Central America, which began in the early hours of Wednesday morning, the UK Foreign Office has said.

But, surprisingly, since she insists there is still a "special relationship" with America, she was not informed of the operation for over one and a half hours after it began.

A Foreign Office spokesman told IRNA that U.S. "President Bush telephoned the prime minister at 7 AM London time today (Wednesday) to tell her about the operation in progress in Panama. The prime minister expressed Britain's full support for the operation."

The spokesman continued that Thatcher said "all those who criticise Noriega must surely support the Americans in their actions."

There is a significant difference between the manner in which the United States informed Britain and the UK's response, this time, compared with October 1983 when U.S. paratroopers invaded the former British colony of Grenada in Central America.

In 1983, the United States informed Britain of their intention to take military action before it began, and Thatcher tried, but failed, to dissuade the then U.S.

President Ronald Reagan, from going ahead, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica yearbook covering the events of 1983. The yearbook continues that she later condemned the U.S. action, and annoyed her supporters in the UK and America.

Many observers believe, however, that Britain's "special relationship" with America has declined and that Thatcher is struggling to restore it. Thus, even after being informed of the Panama operation one and a half hours after it began, she was eager to demonstrate her support for the United States.

The White House, which is the home and office of the U.S. President, claimed at one point that the operation was to apprehend Panama's General Manuel Noriega, who is wanted in the United States, after being indicted in February 1988 by a Miami Federal Grand Jury, on drug-running charges.

But some independent sources believe that the American claim to be concerned about Panamanian drug cartels, reportedly headed by Noriega, reveals a double standard on the party of the United States, which never made such strong efforts to detain members of the former Shah of Iran's family, including his twin sister, who were known to be heavily involved in the drug industry worldwide.

Those same sources have questioned strongly, the legitimacy of the American action, and condemn the U.S. attempts to act as if it is an international gendarme. They say that if Noriega and Panama are involved in the sort of "crimes" which America would like to claim, then the United Nations should say something and take responsibility for any international action against Panama or any other similar regime.

Independent observers have suggested that the operation was launched to protect American interests in the region and White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said the Americans move is "to protect U.S. lives and restore the democratic process."

The U.S. Government added that Guillermo Endara was sworn in as president in charge of a new Panamanian Government. Endara won an election in May of this year, but was prevented from taking office by Noriega, who annulled the election. The UK Foreign Office said that they have "consistently condemned Noriega and called for the election result in Panama to be respected."

Just last Friday, Noriega declared a "state of war" with the United States and Panamanian soldiers reportedly began shooting American soldiers, 12,000 of whom are permanently stationed in Panama under a treaty to protect the important sea channels, the Panama Canal.

Hours after the operation began, a top Noriega aide told Mexican television that he was safe in the countryside and local radio in Panama said that U.S. planes were bombing Panama's capital.

Meanwhile, Moscow has denounced U.S. intervention in Panama as a violation of the United Nations Charter.

Further on Visit of Romanian President Ceausescu

Accord on Trade Exchange Planned

LD1812205589 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18 , IRNA—Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's three-day official visit to the Islamic Republic which started today, falls within the framework of expanding bilateral relations between the two countries especially in the economic field.

Ceausescu and his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani are expected to sign a technical and economic cooperation agreement according to which the volume of bilateral trade exchanges would reach three billion dollars per year.

As per the protocol signed in Bucharest early last July by the Iranian plan and budget minister, volume of bilateral trade was fixed at 1.180 billion dollars.

In his visit to Romania in his capacity as Iran's president ten months ago, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i stressed the expansion of economic cooperation and further promotion of bilateral ties in various other fields.

Although the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979 greatly boosted Tehran-Bucharest relations, Romania had enjoyed active economic relations with Iran even during the pre-revolution period, and the first trade agreement between the two countries was signed in 1967 for setting up a tractor plant.

In the political field, Romania has condemned Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons in the imposed war against the Islamic Republic, and withheld the delivery of 140 M-77 tanks to the Egyptian regime because Cairo shipped 60 tanks of the same model to the Ba'thist regime.

At the moment, Romania with a population of 25 million, is the sole East European country rigidly adhering to its past government system. It enjoys close cordial relations with the Soviet Union.

Early this year, the state-run Romanian news agency quoting President Ceausescu reported that although the country was capable of producing nuclear weapons, it did not intend to do so.

Ceausescu Lays Wreath at Tomb

LD1912112789 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec 19, IRNA—The visiting Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu paid tribute to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Imam Khomeyni, by laying a wreath of flowers on his tomb here Tuesday morning. President Ceausescu also signed a memorial book at the imam's holy shrine. Minister of Heavy Industries Mohammad Hadi Nejad-Hoseinian accompanied the Romanian president during the ceremony.

President Ce ausescu heading a delegation arrived here Monday afte rnoon on a three-day state visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Raf sanjani.

Vela yati Receives Foreign Minister

LD20120934 89 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 9 Dec 89

[Text] In this afternoon's meeting between Ion Stoian [as heard], foreig n minister of Romania, and Velayati, foreign minister r of our country, the two sides expressed interest in bil ateral relations and cooperation in international forums, and declared their readiness to strengthen these relation s even further. At the end of this meeting the Romanian n foreign minister said that he hopes that in reply to the i nvitation extended by Velayati, he will be able to visit T ehran on his own.

A greements Concluded, Signed

LD20121222 89 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec 20, IRNA—A protocol on long-term expansion of Tehran-Bucharest economic, technical, and technological cooperation was signed here Wednesday morning at the e end of the second round of talks between the visiting R omanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and President Akb ar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran.

Present in the talks were Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, vice -president and head of the Iranian party at the joint Iran-Romania Economic Commission Masud Roghani Zan jani and Minister of Heavy Industries Mohammad H adi Nejad Hoseinian.

Romanian De eputy Prime Minister Iion Radu, Foreign Minister Ion Stoian, Presidential Advisor Constantin Mitea and the country's ambassador to Tehran Ilie Cisu were also pres sent at the meeting.

Meanwhile, a n agreement for mutual scientific, educational and cu ltural cooperation for the years 1990-1992 was signed b y the two countries foreign ministers Wednesday m orning.

In a similar development Roghani-Zanjani and Radu signed a lette r of understanding for the seventh joint Iran-Romania Economic Commission.

President Cea usescu who arrived here Monday on a three-day offi cial visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart he ld a private meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjan i Tuesday night.

Offi cial Comments on Agreements

NC21120915 89 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Mr N ili, the Plan and Budget Organization deputy, has spoken to our correspondent Sajedi about the list of items on which Iran and Romania reached an accord during their talks. We wish to draw your attention to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Sajedi] Mr Nili, as the deputy of economic affairs in the Plan and Budget Organization, could you please tell us the details of the issues discussed between the Iranian and Romanian teams? Could you also tell us what matters on which they reached agreement?

[Nili] I would like to say that the latest session was the seventh of the joint economic cooperation commission between the two countries. We reached agreement on the following: Regarding oil, nearly 2 million tons of crude oil will be exported against imports of certain products; 2 million tons of crude oil will be exported on a quid pro quo basis. Furthermore, 1.6 million tons of oil will be exported for cash payment. This is featured for the first time in the agreement reached between the two countries and has been incorporated in the protocol.

Similarly, we agreed on the export of a billion cubic meters of gas. Romania will purchase this for cash or it may be included in the joint projects of the two countries. Generally speaking, Romania has expressed interest in purchasing 10 million cubic meters of gas from Iran in the next (?year).

In the field of industry, the export of about 70,000 automobile radiators to Romania was agreed upon and the purchase by Romania of vehicle batteries from Iran was discussed.

Regarding the construction of wood, cement, and chemical factories, useful talks took place and a general agreement was reached. It was decided that talks among experts will continue.

In the future expansion of the industrial field, the utilization by Iranian factories of Romanian raw materials and machinery for the manufacture of various industrial products which will subsequently be sold to Romania—a procedure envisaged in the 5-year plan—was agreed upon in principle. In the heavy industry sector it was decided that more extensive cooperation will take place between the two countries.

In the sector of energy, cooperation with Romania is to continue in the form of its supervision of the construction of the (Waswaqan) Dam in the vicinity of Saveh. This has been confirmed.

In general, the protocol of joint economic cooperation between the two countries coincides with the program for long-term cooperation signed between Iran and Romania .[end recording]

Ceausescu, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comment

LD2012150689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Dear listeners, as we announced earlier, at the end of his 3-day visit to our country, the Romanian president, before his departure from Tehran today, talked to

our correspondent about the results of his visit. We draw your attention to that interview.

In the interview, Mr Ceausescu expressed gratitude for the hospitality of the Iranian Government, president, and nation. Referring to talks between Iran and Romania, he said that the main axis for these talks rested on technical, scientific, and economic cooperation between the two countries, and useful agreements were reached which are evident in documents signed by the heads of the Iran-Romania joint commission. He then pointed to Romania's standpoints in connection with global disarmament and affairs pertaining to the establishment of peace. He stressed that disputes between governments should be resolved in peaceful ways. He added: In this regard, Romania has declared its support for the implementation of Resolution 598, which guarantees peace between Iran and Iraq and which benefits regional and global peace. He continued by stressing the necessity for respecting independence, national sovereignty, and noninterference in the affairs of others. He further sought the convention of an international conference in order to resolve the issue of foreign debts faced by developing countries. The Romanian president added: On this trip, two long-term agreements were signed which brighten up the long-term prospects for relations between Iran and Romania. In conclusion, he sought the expansion of bilateral relations in all economic, technical, and cultural fields.

According to the same report, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in an interview with our correspondent, answered the question posed in connection with the outcome of the Romanian president's trip to our country. Let us hear that together.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Romanian president's trip ended today after 3 days. During those past 3 days, two rounds of talks were held between the presidents of two countries. Please explain to us the important topics discussed in those rounds of talks, as well as the results of that visit.

[Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In reply to the trip of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i—our esteemed leader—during the course of his presidency, the esteemed president of Romania graciously came to Iran on the basis of my invitation. This was a successful visit. The grounds for work are completely suitable. Iran and Romania have close or singular stances on many regional and global issues because we have many shared stances toward the majority of global, political, and cultural issues. [sentence as heard] The talks progressed speedily and in the desired manner. The Iranian and Romanian teams carried out centralized and extensive tasks in relation to grounds for bilateral cooperation. It became clear that there were numerous grounds for cooperation and that there was no obstacle in the way of cooperation. Therefore, some good agreements were signed. As far as global issues are concerned, our useful shared stances concerned our singular stance regarding the negation of superpower domination over other countries; noninterference by others in determining the fate of nations; respect for the independence and sovereignty of other countries; and opposition to the resolution of disputes through coercion, domination, and weaponry; as well as continuous efforts for the eradication of the oppression that dominates the world today and that relates to different people's share of world resources, thereby dividing the world into the two camps of the deprived and the arrogant. This problem still plagues our history, and continues to grow. It is the duty of justice-seeking people and governments to endeavor to resolve this fundamental problem posed on the course of human evolution. This understanding played an effective role in our joint decisions. It was decided that we and the Romanians should follow up the talks so that the agreements we reached here may be implemented properly. We know that both nations will benefit if the agreements are put into practice. I would like to express gratitude for the cooperation of our friends in Iran and Romania and for their efforts. I also would like to thank the esteemed president of the Republic of Romania for having accepted my invitation.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Joint Communique on Visit Issued

LD2012152489 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec 20, IRNA—A joint communique issued simultaneously in Tehran and Bucharest Wednesday at the end of a 3-day state visit to Tehran by President Nicolae Ceausescu, calls for expansion of mutual ties and cooperation in various industrial fields.

It said President Ceasescu and his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need to promote cooperation in the fields of heavy, chemical, petrochemical, gas and oil industries, mines, agriculture, energy and transportation.

The two presidents who held their talks in an atmosphere of sincerity and friendship also inked a protocol for Tehran-Bucharest economic and industrial cooperation until the year 2000 it said.

In the presence of the two heads of state, the foreign ministers of Romania and Iran Ion Stoian and Ali Akbar Velayati signed an agreement for cooperation in the fields of science, education, culture, and arts, the communique added.

The two presidents also voiced support for a speedy enforcement of the UN Resolution 598, lauded the UN chief's efforts to end the hostilities between Iran and Iraq, and underlined the need for withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders, it said.

Iran and Romania also voiced support for the freedom struggle of the Palestinian people and their right to

self-determination and for an independent Palestinian state. They also called for a just settlement of the Middle East crises.

The two presidents also supported the just struggle of the Lebanese people for attainment of freedom and national sovereignty and for preservation of their homeland's territorial integrity.

President Ceausescu and President Rafsanjani maintained that establishment of a system of government based on the Lebanese people's wishes was the only solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The two sides agreed that the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean should be free from military bases as well as nuclear or chemical weapons, and therefore called for unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region.

The presidents of the two countries, while underlining the importance of observing the human rights principles, voiced their opposition to the one-sided stands taken against certain countries and exploitation of human rights issue for political purposes and intervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

The joint communique quoted the two heads of state as strongly opposing terrorist activities, committed either individually or collectively against human beings.

They also condemned state terrorism which they believed would not be eliminated unless attention was paid to its social, economic, and political causes.

Both countries called for continuation of efforts for security and cooperation in Europe, placing emphasis on the necessity of turning the Balkan Peninsula into a peaceful zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons as well as military bases and foreign forces.

They also called for an end to the arms race and for a ban on the production, stockpiling and deployment of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons or other means of mass killings, and condemned the use of such weapons under whatever condition.

The two countries pledged their full support for the establishment of a lasting peace in Central America and for all efforts made by countries and international organizations to this end.

Iran and Romania condemned the apartheid policy practiced by the Pretoria regime and reiterated their support for struggles of nations for independence and freedom.

'Official Visit' Ends

LD2012122789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] At the end of the Romanian president's official visit to our country, the long-term program for the expansion of economic, technical, and scientific cooperation between Iran and Romania until the year 2,000 was signed in Tehran today. Our correspondent, Ahmadzadeh, reports:

[Ahmadzadeh] Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, president of Romania, who visited our country after having been officially invited to do so by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, left for Romania this afternoon after a 3-day visit. He was seen off officially by the president, several members of the cabinet, state and military officials, and ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign countries based in Tehran. Before the Romanian president's departure, the second round of talks between the presidents of the two countries were held on the presidential premises. At the end of these talks, the long-term program for the expansion of economic, technical, and scientific cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Romania until the year 2,000 was signed by the two countries' presidents.

In addition, the program for scientific, training, cultural, and art cooperation was signed by the two countries' foreign ministers, and the memorandum of understanding of the seventh session of the joint economic, technical, and commercial cooperation commision was signed by the head of the Plan and Budget Organization and the vice premier of Romania. At the end of this trip, a joint protocol was signed on ways to expand relations between the two countries, and emphasis was placed on economic fields, regional and international issues, the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to behind international borders, as well as issues concerning the Middle East, Lebanon, Europe, and Central America.

Ministry Protests UK's Arrest of Students

LD2012203689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Since the very beginning of the arrest of four Iranian students in England, the office in charge of protecting the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran has engaged in extensive efforts for the release of those students.

Mr Sarmadi, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in an interview with IRNA regarding this matter, said: Yesterday morning the office in charge of protecting the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that a number of the arrested students would be released.

Mr Sarmadi added: Since the start of the arrest of the Iranian students the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced the strong protest of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the arrest of Iranian students and their interrogation by the British Government through the Swedish Embassy in Tehran, which is in charge of protecting British interests in Tehran. Also following the announcement of the British Government's decision to expel two of the arrested students, this

morning the protest of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding this matter was conveyed to the Swedish Embassy in Tehran.

It should be noted that yesterday afternoon the British Government announced that two of the arrested Iranian students would be released and two others would be expelled from that country. The two Iranian students who are to be expelled from by the British Government are studying in a doctorate course in engineering.

Austria Accused of Entering War of Embassies

NC1112222589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Dec 89 p 2

[Commentary by Sa'id Mas'ud Jazayeri: "Austria in the Trap of the War of Embassies"]

[Text] The repeated scenario of the siege of the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy in Paris, this time by the Austrian Government, in a way manifests the same conditions which led to Europe's confrontation with Iran 2 years ago. Then the European countries, one after the other, put a new type of pressure on Iran to test it on the basis of a premeditated plan. The main objective was to make the Islamic Republic of Iran grant concessions. Accusing an Iranian diplomat in France of involvement in a series of explosions in Paris also proved there was an absence of security for Iranian embassies and representatives in the world.

Iran's decisive approach and, following that, the siege on the French Embassy in Tehran, which came to be known as the war of embassies, neutralized the West's plans.

But as has repeatedly been said about this, the West's defeat in some of the quarrels that are sparked off to make Islamic Iran appear questionable have not ended pressures and this strategy; each time something else is created. This is why the Islamic revolution is in constant confrontation and combat.

The Vienna murder of Qasemlu, head of the defunct Democratic Party of Kordestan, which was followed by pressures from Washington on the Austrian Government, paved the way for yet another confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Now Austria is presenting the Iranians as the perpetrators of Qasemlu's murder. This is exactly contrary to what was said in the days after the murder. Qasemlu and two of his associates who were meeting with an Iranian representative in Vienna were attacked by unidentified people. Three people were killed, and the Iranian representative was seriously injured in this attack.

After their investigations, Austrian security services did not find any evidence of Iranian involvement in this act. Thus they allowed the injured Iranian to leave for Tehran for treatment. At that time, all facts pointed to an internal purge of a group, and the Iranian Government accused the Iraqi intelligence services and some of the internal factions of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of being the possible perpetrators. But after some time, the page turned. After the death of the imam, the West expected some changes in the principles of the revolution. But it saw that developments in Iran were moving contrary to their analyses. Thus, it once again resorted to the policy of pressure on a vast scale.

Accusations of planting bombs in airplanes, commotion over the arrest of a number of Arab-speaking and African people in Spain on charges of carrying explosives linking them to Iran, continued references to the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon, and, along with all these, the issue of human rights violations and many other such issues are all part of the attacks constantly carried out against the Islamic Republic of Iran. They are thus influential in molding public opinion against Iran. Meanwhile, the U.S. pressures on Vienna led to the siege on the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Vienna. The United States resorted to various ploys—from propounding the issue of Qasemlu's foreign widow and her accusations against Iran to encouraging internal discord among the Austrian leaders—in a bid to achieve its objective. Even though none of the European countries have yet been able to move out of the U.S. orbit and adopt an independent policy on Iran—and it should also be noted that revolutionary Islam has never and can never be favored by any of the leaders and behind-the-scene rulers in the West—nevertheless Austria never showed such an "extent" of willingness to enter into a conflict with Iran. However, the footprints of this "small" country could be seen in the margin of some of the confrontations with the Islamic revolution. Nevertheless, under the current circumstances, if the Austrian officials are farsighted to a certain extent, they can foresee future developments and see that they should try to emerge from this situation. It should be said that if the Islamic Republic of Iran were to reject its principles and values when facing such approaches, it would have done so a long time ago.

The people of Iran and revolutionary Muslims will definitely not forgive this approach by the Austrian Government. "Retaliation" is only one of the principled and known paths regarding such unfit behavior.

Daily Says No Iran-Israel Ties Except 'Enmity'

LD2112092889 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—There can never be any ties between Iran and the Zionist regime except that of enmity, said the English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial Thursday.

"Such enmity will continue as long as this cancer exists in the heartland of the Islamic land," said the paper commenting on a recent report by the U.S. television network, NBC, on Iran's oil sale to the Zionist regime. The Iranian mission to the United Nations Tuesday categorically denied the report.

The daily stressed that those who follow developments in Iran could hardly imagine Iran's selling of oil to the Zionist regime.

"If one really sees the record of the struggle of the Muslims against the Zionist regime it may be clear in everybody's mind that the Zionist regime did not have a single day of peace since 1979 (the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in Iran)," said the daily.

It stressed that since 1979 Iran has supported the anti-Zionist struggle through "diplomatic, financial means and even through actual presence on the scene of volunteer forces."

"These Zionists will never be able to breathe any sigh of relief as long as they continue occupying the holy lands of Islam," concluded the English daily.

Attack on Zaki Badr, Islamic Unrest Viewed

NC1712194489 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Dec 89

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Excerpts] The Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM has accused the Islamic Jihad movement of planning the explosion near Interior Minister Zaki Badr's car on Saturday morning. Badr escaped unharmed, and his ministry's forces arrested the student who allegedly carried out the operation, who suffered injuries. According to information, he is a medical student at Asyut University. The authorities earlier had arrested 300 students at this university after provoking a clash with them following their success in student elections.

We review this issue in the following report:

The accusation made by the semi-official newspaper AL-AHRAM against the Islamic Jihad movement, holding it responsible for the truck which exploded while Zaki Badr's motorcade passed near it, indicates the authorities' inclination to declare war against the active Islamic forces in Egypt and to use the incident as an excuse to repress the Islamists under the pretext of fighting violence.

The course of events in Egypt, in light of repeated clashes between police forces and Islamic university students, indicates the government is looking for an excuse to implement a plan the interior ministry has long threatened to carry out—a pre-emptive strike against the Islamic forces to avert further Islamic activity and influence among Egyptians. This activity has provoked great anxiety in government circles and the ruling National Democratic Party. [passage omitted]

The eruption of occasional clashes and explosions generally places the authorities squarely before their responsibilities. They either can observe a minimum of constitutional principles and permit the Islamic groups to express themselves, or prevent them from exercising this legitimate, legal right and force them to resort to clandestine activity. In this case, violent events will be an inevitable result of repression. The state of social unrest in Egypt will move permanently toward greater crisis, as long as the ruling regime insists on excluding and disregarding the Islamists and preventing them from conducting political and social activity.

It is this state of affairs that led the Islamic forces to declare the system of government is illegitimate because it disregards Islamic teachings and regards fighting the Islamists a central task.

Hungarian Deputy Minister Talks With Va'ezi

NC1312080489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] The Hungarian deputy culture minister, who currently is in Tehran for talks on cultural ties between Iran and Hungary, yesterday afternoon met Mr Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs.

During the meeting the Hungarian minister stressed his country attaches great importance to expanding cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and discussed mutual cooperation in the fields of culture, art, and university affairs with Mr Va'ezi.

President Sends Message to UAE President

LD1412121489 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today sent a message to his counterpart of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The message was handed over to Shaykh Zayid by Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Mohammad 'Ali Hadi in Abu Dhabi.

Exchange of views between the two country's heads would prepare the grounds for peace and stability in the region, Shaykh Zayid said in the meeting.

He also expressed hope that mutual relations in all areas would expand between UAE and the Islamic Republic.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Nurses Gathering

LD1112105189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Speech by Ahmad Khomeyni to a gathering of nurses on the anniversary of the birth of Zaynab, the prophet's daughter; place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Our sisters sometimes have given three or four martyrs. Some have had their brothers or husbands martyred, or have become disabled themselves. They have remained steadfast like a mountain and are not prepared to take one step back. Why? Because doing so is tantamount to abandoning the trend

of justice. They say we have lost our children, husbands, brothers, and sisters to please God and do not wish to have anything in return. We are living in hardship. The majority of martyrs' families, the MIA's and POW's come from middle to lower-class families. May God assist the officials so they may save them from hardships and misery, making the imam's heart happy. They have not endured these tasks to attain comfort, houses, rank, etc. [passage omitted]

Do you not remember the early days of the revolution. There were many Muslim and religious mothers who, to please God, handed over their children to the country's judicial authorities. They told them of their links with certain factions. Do you remember the mother of (?Tariq ol-Eslam)? There were many such mothers who confronted their children and said no, stating that if the choice is between you and our religion, we are not prepared to relinquish our religion.

Today you sisters should be aware we are living in a very difficult period. We all know you live in hardship. [passage omitted]. If one day we abandon the ideal you have fought for, then we no longer would be by your side, and if we are not by your side, then we are not following the imam's path. You dear ones should do your utmost not to lose those values that are the highly worthy outcome of your children's blood, their disappearance, and their capture, all for the sake of some welfare issues and a series of threats some may make. Everyone knows you are under economic pressure. Everyone knows you live in hardship. But everyone also knows you bear all such hardship for the sake of your God, your creed and your system, and remain on the scene. If today you do not remain united, if you do not cry out your slogans against the East and the West, who else can confront them. You are all your officials have. They are not affiliated with any place. It is your support that allows them to confront the powers. I call on all of you to assist the officials in your system, through your prayers, work and effort. We all should unite so we may take the revolution forward. [passage omitted].

Everyone knows we face shortages in our hospitals. This is very clear. We are short of medicines, beds, and all such things. We are fully aware. But you must put up with such things. [passage omitted]. You must be aware there are infiltrators who do not wish to see those hospitalized leave them with hearts filled with joy and comfort. You sister and brother nurses must endeavor to accept with warmth and sincerity those who refer to your hospitals, clinics, or your private hospitals, pray and look after them as much as you can. I hereby thank those very dear nurses who looked after the imam and made round-the-clock sacrifices. [passage omitted]

Mohtashemi Responds to ETTELA'AT Questions

NC2012150589 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] ETTELA'AT posed the following questions to candidate Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi:

1. Can you please tell us briefly why you want to be a Majles deputy and what is your field of specialization (with details of your academic qualifications)? In which Majles committee do you think you will be most effective?
2. What were your political activities before and after the revolution? How long have you lived in your constituency and do you still reside there?
3. To what extent do you consider the third Majles successful and what are its weaknesses and its strengths?
4. What do you believe are the main problems facing the country and why?
5. What are the impediments to eliminating social inequities and discrimination and how can Islamic justice and equality be attained?
6. It has been repeatedly stressed that we need major basic laws and that the executive and the judiciary should cooperate with the Majles in their formulation and compilation. In your opinion, which areas should have priority in enacting such laws?
7. Support for the oppressed has always been stressed by the two houses of the Majles. Leaving aside all slogans or rhetoric, in which specific fields and in what way can such support be given?
8. A great deal has been said about popular participation. Who should participate and what form should this participation take?
9. What is the role of planning in the growth and development of the country and and in which areas should planning be focused?
10. The Majles committees need specialized, enlightened experts in various fields. What is your opinion in this regard?

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi gave the following answers:

Answer to Question One:

The preservation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and the safeguarding of the ideals of the revolution is a legal, Islamic, and humanitarian obligation for those who have the strength to do so. Moreover, the Islamic Majles can be considered the real base for the protection of the lofty values of the Islamic Revolution. It is therefore appropriate that those who enter it should fully understand the principles of the revolution and should have the capacity to comprehend and analyze the political and economic issues in the country, the region, and the world.

This basic and major principle motivated me to participate in the elections and to seek entry into the Islamic Majles. Regarding my specialization, I can say that I have specialized in Islamic studies and political affairs and I think I can serve on the committees for domestic affairs, foreign affairs, or cultural and Islamic guidance.

Answer to Question Two:

I was born in Tehran in the year 1325 [1946] and entered the Qom seminary after completing my schooling in 1340 [1961]. On 4 Bahman 1341 [24 January 1962] I was

arrested on charges of opposing the so-called white revolution of the accursed Pahlavi regime while disseminating some literature.

I was one of the organizers who convened politico-religious gatherings in Qom against the capitulation [preceding word in English] and the exile of his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) to Turkey. In the year 1345 [1967] I went to Iraq when the imam was in exile there and, until the victory of the revolution, I was engaged in studies at the Najaf theological seminary.

For 10 years, I studied Islamic jurisprudence under his eminence the imam and martyr Mostafa Khomeyni. In holy Najaf as well I was a member of the central cell of the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez abroad and was twice arrested by the Ba'thist Iraqi regime for publishing and disseminating the works, writings, and messages of the late leader of the Islamic revolution.

I was active in Lebanon as well as other Muslim countries and cooperated with the strugglers in those countries. After completing a military training course, I worked with the Palestinian resistance cells in particular.

For a while, I was the member of the management office of the imam in Paris, Qom, and Tehran and also a member of the committee chosen by the imam for a review of the issues facing the Oppressed Foundation.

I was also the imam's deputy to the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran and for some time I was also supervisor of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I also served as the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Syria from 1360-64 [1981-85].

In addition to my diplomatic duties, I established Islamic groups in Lebanon and Palestine and I thus became the object of the fury of world oppression and as a result was the target of a bomb. I was wounded on the hand and ear and lost some fingers. From 1364 to 1368 [1985-89] I served as the interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Answer to Question Three:

The followers of the imam's line have a majority in the third Majles and, despite the activities of the factions which exert pressure from within and without the Majles, it has done very well. Any weaknesses are not the fault of the Majles, but of political pressure from these factions which seek to prevent deputies from making accurate assessments of various issues. On certain occasions, unfortunately, the Majles has succumbed to such pressures and deviated from its revolutionary stance.

Answer to Question Four:

As for the main problems facing the country, I can mention, in order of importance, the political, cultural, social, and, finally, economic problems. It should be stressed that our enemies try to concentrate the attention of the people and officials of our country, and of Third World countries generally, on economic issues. In this way, they try to overshadow the political and cultural independence of the country, even though the political and cultural problems of a country must be considered the main problems facing a society; in fact, economic problems stem from political and cultural factors or, in other words, are a natural concomitant.

We should bear in mind that the people of our Islamic nation have struggled to liberate themselves from bondage and dependence and to achieve independence in all fields. Therefore, at this sensitive juncture, the focus should not be on social welfare or economic prosperity to such an extent that our political independence and pure Islamic culture may be blemished and result in our being shackled in various ways.

Answer to Question Five:

Regarding the impediments to Islamic justice, in my opinion, there are three factors; that is, force, wealth, and belligerence can be considered the major obstacles to Islamic justice and equality. If these are combined, God forbid, with political power, they will greatly hamper the path of Islamic justice and equality. Therefore we must try to make these factors as insignificant and weak as possible in our society. By drafting laws based on the pure Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him), we can pave the way for the establishment and spread of social justice and eliminate various kinds of discrimination and various Islamic [as published] and un-Islamic inequities and discrepancies.

Answer to Question Six:

The important and grassroots level laws are those which accentuate the framework and foundation of our domestic and foreign policy and delineate the infrastructure of the country's security in a permanent and independent manner. These laws should stipulate cultural and economic issues in conformity with the injunctions of Islam and negate all kinds of dependence.

In my opinion, the Majles should refrain from enacting laws which pertain only to daily routine affairs and so prevent greater attention from being focused on the actual problems of the country. It should first and foremost embark on formulating important and basic laws.

Answer to Question Seven:

On the question of support for the oppressed, and leaving slogans aside, I think that the economic principles mentioned by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) should be compiled in the form of a body of laws and be implemented. In this way, we will be able to strive to ameliorate the lot of the oppressed, the barefoot ones, and the deprived in the continuing war between penury and opulence through our principled support, especially in the annual budget bill, as well as in the social and economic development bill which is currently being discussed in the Majles.

Answ
ver to Question Eight:

The i
way implementation of the law of Islamic councils is one
larly, people can participate in their own affairs. Simi-
who t the election of their true representatives and those
Islam truly believe in the humane injunctions of the pure
of en of Mohammad (peace be upon him) is also a way
affairsnsuring people's participation in the country's
the q s. These representatives should be endowed with all
shoulqualities specified by his eminence the imam and
face old remain steadfast with strength and valor in the
of all difficulties.

Answ
ver to Question Nine:

The p
politicpreservation of the country's independence in the
of all ical, economic, and cultural fields and the negation
among movements which entail foreign dependence are
planng the main factors to be kept in mind in all
allocaning. Similarly, the necessary importance must be
sion oated to the principle of freedom and to the expres-
tutionof one's beliefs, as clearly stipulated in the Consti-
n. [no answer to question ten as published]

Gover
rnor Generals Appointed for Mazandaran, Yazd

LD171
1600 G 12182489 Tehran Television Service in Persian
GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text]
Hashe] In today's cabinet meeting, chaired by President
exami emi-Rafsanjani, current domestic issues were
eign a ined and discussed. Mr Velayati, minister of for-
implen affairs, briefed the cabinet on talks concerning
ementation of [UN] Resolution No 598.
On the
approve suggestion of the interior minister and on cabinet
ernor-g val, Engineer Esma'il Mofidi was appointed gov-
Hamid general of Mazandaran, and Engineer Abdol 'Ali
for the idiyeh governor-general of Yazd. There was praise
governe services of messrs Bitaraf and Haji, the previous
nor-generals of Yazd and Mazandaran.

Interio
ior Minister Presents New Yazd Governor

LD191
1030 G 12161789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text]
mornir] Mr. Abdollah Nuri, interior minister, this
of Yaz ing arrived in Yazd to introduce the new governor
unit re zd Province. The correspondent of the central news
reports:
The i
with t interior minister announced that simultaneously
Exper the end of the present term of the Assembly of
tatives erts, the countrywide elections of people's repesen-
will ta es in the Assembly of Experts [Majles-e Khobregani]
who h take place next year [beginning 21 March]. Mr Nuri,
'Abdo had gone to the province of Yazd to present Mr
appea ol 'Ali Hamidiya, the new governor of Yazd,
attend ared at a meeting of the Administrative Council
ments ded by the director of the local government depart-
in his ts and heads of organizations of Yazd province, and
period s speech said: Currently, during the reconstruction
od, all the resources of the country should be put to
work for this reconstruction. He said, the Interior Ministry, as the compiler of the general policies of the government, intends to prepare the necessary grounds for the full implementation of the 5-year plan of the Islamic Republic; and along this path, it will make efforts to preserve preparedness for confrontation with any hostility from foreigners, toward the realization of social justice and the utilization of the strength and specializations of social forces.

In continuation, he thanked Mr Bitaraf, the former governor, and named Mr Abdol 'Ali Hamidiya as the new governor, wishing him success. The interior minister also participated in an all-media interview and while announcing the date of the staging of the elections of the Assembly of Experts next year, described the measures that have been taken in combating narcotics, in reply to the question: how is the relationship between the increasing discovery of narcotics and the successful battles against the merchants of death be explained, he said: there was a very extensive conspiracy accompanied by huge shipments of narcotics from the east to the western side of the country, but, thanks to God, we managed to solve a large part of this problem. He said: the start of this serious struggle was undertaken with the endorsement of the Expediency Discernment Council, and we hope that you shall pursue with such seriousness your efforts at lowering the level of transportation and distribution of narcotics so much that this level drops close to zero.

Commentary Reviews GCC Summit, Peace Prospects

LD1812181789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1055 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to dear listeners. Today the tenth summit of the heads of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] opens in the Omani capital of Muscat.

Relations with Iran, and the not-so-successful discussions on peace and security in the Persian Gulf, are among the important subjects on the agenda of the summit.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always believed that the general plan for the cooperation between the countries bordering the Persian Gulf is not possible without total participation.

Since long ago and from the time that the NATO warships arrived in the Persian Gulf, Iran has always repeated its belief that the region's security should be maintained only by the countries bordering the Persian Gulf.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has the longest shoreline bordering the Persian Gulf, controls the strategic Hormuz waterway, and enjoys a very strong and unmatched navy in the region. Last Saturday the naval forces of the Army and the Guards ended their extensive

maneuvers in Persian Gulf waters, which were a kind of emphasis on Iran's military strength in safeguarding the region's security.

Presently Iran has good relations with all government members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, apart from [Saudi] Arabia, and last week our country's deputy foreign minister presented to some of those countries' leaders a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Therefore it is obvious that the present obstacles to the establishment of a political settlement in the region, as well as obstacles to the relations between governments, should be eliminated in a logical and acceptable way.

The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, in the most suitable conditions for securing its political position, should favor the complete and unaltered implemention of [UN] Resolution 598. Because any effort to alter the resolution, which is supported by an international agreement, can set a dangerous precedent and lead to the discrediting of other regional agreements.

Therefore any emphasis by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council on the issues outside those regional agreements, approved by the United Nations, cannot help in normalizing the present situation.

The Iraqi regime's continued insistence on not implementing Resolution 598 has in practice blocked the way for the return of security and the final peace to the region. That regime's expansionist policies, so far, have brought a great deal of loss to the member governments of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and has unsettled the region—a region that can be one of the most tranquil parts of the world. The foreign naval presence has been reduced in comparison to the numbers during the time of the war, but many warships, among them U.S. ships, still patrol the waters of the Persian Gulf. Though Washington's main pretext for stationing its forces in the Persian Gulf is already diminished, the United States is not prepared to give up the situation which it has gained. It is obvious that such a military presence, with regard to the expansionist policies of U.S. imperialism, can under no circumstances secure the legitimate interests of the countries of the region.

This same issue shows that what the Islamic Republic of Iran always believed—that is, the maintenance of security by only those countries that have borders with the Persian Gulf—is the best way for securing stability, tranquillity, and the withdrawal of foreign forces—forces which never have come to the Persian Gulf to secure the interests of this or that country in the region.

Now the world is moving toward a kind of understanding and abandoning differences which cause agitations, and it is hoped that the same regional understanding will prevail in the meeting of the heads of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

UN Pressure on Iraq To Accept Resolution Urged

NC1612152589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday left for New York to resume post-war diplomatic contacts for achieving a comprehensive peace in the region.

These contacts are continuing under the framework of Security Council Resolution 598 which was accepted by both Iran and Iraq last year in July. Since then 15 rounds of indirect and U.N. sponsored talks were held between Iran and Iraq with no result.

Last month U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar sent his special envoy Jan Eliasson on shuttle diplomacy. The current scheduled diplomatic contacts are the result of the visits of Mr Eliasson to Iran and Iraq.

So far whatever efforts were made in the direction of the implementation of Resolution 598 bore no fruit. The main hurdle is Iraq which according to Dr. Velayati wants certain concessions from Iran through putting terms and conditions which are not covered according to the resulution.

For example, the Iraqi regime insists that the first move should be to clear war wreckage from the Arvand River. And the Baghdad regime also claims that it should have its sovereginty over the Arvand River.

Lip services and empty slogans in the name of humanity are also continuing on the exchange of the prisoners of war. All efforts were made by the Iraqi regime to distort facts about the Iranian stance on the POWs,

The Iranian officials knew of the real intentions of the Iraqi rulers but just to break the impasse, they told the U.N. in November that Iran would agree to a prisoner exchange if it was carried out simultaneously with an Iraqi withdrawal to internationally recognized borders.

World public opinion most definitely would have recorded the Iraqi response to the Iranian offer but the impasse still was not broken and the prisoners of war are still far from their near and dear because of the negative and illogical attitude of the Iraqi regime.

The fact is that we are not at all optimistic as to results from the talks to be held in the headquarters of the United Nations as Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz on Saturday said that he had no new proposal to present in New York.

By now the secretary general should have understood that the Iraqis would continue their policy of dragging on the issue like this. The U.N., however, should note that there is a limit to patience as far as the Iranian nation is concerned. The officials of the Islamic Republic have kept the doors open to all possibilities and remote probabilities so that the issue may be solved under the frameowrk of Resolution 598.

Such a stand by Iran should not be viewed as a weakness. Its forces are ready to throw out the enemy forces from their holy land.

In these circumstances, we sincerely hope that Mr. Perez de Cuellar, as Dr. Velayati suggested, will bring a pressure on the Iraqi regime for a sincere acceptance of the resolution. That pressure and the mechanism of the pressure should be worked out by the Security Council as the present state on the front is also a challenge to the world body.

Paper on Ensuring Compliance With Resolution 598

NC1612163589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] It is a fact that the recent developments in Eastern bloc has taken many by surprise. It is true that many an international institute are carefully watching and following these developments. And it is a fact that the United Nations too is busy following these events.

There is nothing wrong for the U.N. to follow these developments and indeed it is its responsibility to follow and assess the events carefully.

But it seems that these developments caused preoccupation for some and pretext for certain quarters in the U.N. who are responsible for the implementation of the mandatory Resolution 598.

It is now more than 15 months since the acceptance of the Resolution 598 and one can see no progress in implementation of the resolution. In fact, the first article of the resolution has not yet been implemented.

It is interesting to recall the text of the letter dated Nov. 6, 1987 of Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq, that reads "...The real test of the earnestness of the two parties desire for peace and of their position vis-a-vis Security Council Resolution 598, will be seen through the position taken by each party on the full implementation of paragraph (1) of the resolution."

Since last 15 months the Iraqi regime through intransigent policy made her intention clear.

It has been reported that the secretary general of the U.N., acting under Article 39 and 40 of the U.N. charter, intends to evoke Article 10 of the Resolution 598.

It has been said that this may be done if the next round of talks that is due next week in New York could not pursue the Iraqi regime to comply with the resolution.

If the above report is true, then it is for the Security Council of the United Nations as the main body responsible for the implementation of the resolution to take further steps to ensure compliance with the Resolution 598.

Pakistan

PRC Public Security Minister Wang Fang Arrives

BK2012155289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] A six-member Chinese delegation led by Public Security Minister Wang Fang arrived in Islamabad today on a week-long visit to Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen, the Chinese minister said the objective of the visit is to promote the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

Bhutto Attends Dinner Hosted by PRC Ambassador

BK2112065589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister last night attended a dinner hosted in her honor by the Chinese ambassador in Islamabad. Benazir Bhutto exchanged views with the Chinese ambassador on matters of common interest.

PRC Public Security Minister Wang Fang said that China attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan. He was speaking at a dinner in Islamabad last night which was hosted by Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan. He said the visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to China has greatly helped in further strengthening mutual friendship and cooperation.

Welcoming the distinguished Chinese guest, the interior minister said China has extended honorable cooperation in Pakistan's developmental activities.

Soviet, French Officers Comment on Army Exercise

BK2112104289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] The simulated war [military exercise codenamed 'Zarb-i-Momin'] between the imaginary states of Blue Land and Fox Land has entered a decisive stage. It is being fought in the area between Mankera and Hyderabad, which is described as Fox Land's stronghold. Blue Land forces say they have achieved a major breakthrough by cutting off Mankera-Hyderabad Road. They have also captured seven armored personnel carriers of Fox Land. The Blue Land forces, having captured the city of Fatehpur, are now heading toward the town of Kakrot, crossing the Bhakkar Canal. One report says the VIII Corps of Blue Land has besieged Fox Land's city of Mankera.

The leader of the Soviet delegation, Colonel (Balin), who witnessed the exercise, told newsmen in Sargodha that Pakistan has taken a sound initiative by creating Army's Air Defense Command, which gives stronger defense in the air attack.

The head of the French delegation, Brigadier General (Gerrardo Folio), said he was impressed by the latest radar system of the Army Air Defense.

Press Note Reports Exchange of Fire in Karachi

BK2112064589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah visited various localities of the curfew-bound Model Colony in Karachi yesterday. He directed the local administration to take stern action to crush vengeful activities and to protect the life and property of the people.

A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi East last night says five persons have been arrested on charges of firing on a police patrol party last Tuesday. The press note also says a group of people held a procession yesterday to protest against the arrests, passing through another group's area. The two groups exchanged fire, injuring four persons, one of whom died in the hospital. There were later some shooting incidents in which two more lives were lost.

The press note further says indefinite curfew has been imposed within police limits of Model Colony, Malir, and Malir Extension.

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne Says India Must Honor Pullout Accord

BK2112120089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1040 GMT 21 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 21 (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said at today's cabinet news briefing that he had been informed by the Indian high commissioner in Colombo that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] had completed withdrawal of its troops from the northeast district of Mullaitivu and now Indian troops were withdrawing from Vavuniya and Kilinochchi. They hoped to complete the pullout from these two districts by December 31, this year.

Mr. Wijeratne said that when he enquired about the withdrawal of the IPKF from Trincomalee and Jaffna, the Indian high commissioner had said that he wanted to discuss matters with the minister. Mr. Wijeratne said he replied he had nothing further to discuss with bureaucrats. He said, "I'm prepared to discuss anything only with my counterpart, the foreign minister of India. I have no faith in Indian bureaucrats who mislead Indian politicians. I am not prepared do discuss anything with them. If there is anything to be conveyed to me, I said, he can write to me."

The foreign minister and minister of state for defence said the withdrawal of IPKF troops from Sri Lanka could have been done by December 31, 1989. It's the bureaucrats who had stalled (the complete withdrawal) with the connivance of the chief minister of the northeast province Varadaraja Perumal by boycotting the joint co-ordinating committee. They had willfully delayed the withdrawal and had now put it on logistics, which he could not accept.

Mr. Wijeratne said India must hon
He said, "We are very concerned nour this agreement. had used the political change and th that the bureaucrats India to stifle the withdrawal of e general elections in Rajiv Gandhi promised to withdra IPKF troops which 1989. There is nothing further to d aw by December 31, further discussions with regard to t discuss." He said any IPKF would have to be with the he withdrawal of the foreign minister of India. e prime minister or

Replying to a question concerning the Indian Govern-ment's reported denial of armin g the illegal Tamil National Army [TNA], Mr. Wijera tne said, "You know they have denied everything from the inception. When the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Ta amil Eelam], EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Libe eration Front] and all other Tamil militants were being tr ained on Indian soil, armed to the teeth, and financed, th ey denied it. Do they accept that position now? You know w that they have been trained in India. That was their lau nching pad. So, every denial I cannot accept because we have authenticity of their training which General Kal kat admitted to our president. He admitted that they were trained by the IPKF."

He said that if the IPKF had not ar med the 4,000 cadres of the illegal Tamil National A my, then obviously Varadaraja Perumal had got it fro n the "heavens." Mr. Wijeratne said the IPKF had arn ned the TNA acting independently of the Indian politica l hierarchy. He could not believe that the political hiera chy has directed the IPKF to arm an illegal army, plan t them in Sri Lanka and leave.

Mr. Wijeratne said that the LTT E was disarming the TNA and if Sri Lankan security for es and police got into the fray there will be far more killings. The security forces and police had been asked to act with restraint and only retaliate if attacked and not to go on the offensive.

Inspector General of Police Ern est Perera who was present at the conference said hat the police were maintaining law and order in Batt icaloa.

In answer to a question Mr. Wi eratne said that the LTTE had informed him that the y will remain armed until the last Indian soldier leaves the country as they feared the IPKF might shoot them.

[Words indistinct] said that in the event of a provincial council election no group will be a llowed to carry arms, as elections could not be held wit h people going about with arms as there will be intimid ation of voters.

The LTTE had also said that once th e IPKF leaves they will disarm, enter the democratic proces s and face elections.

All militant groups, the LTTE, EL PRLF and others, can join the Sri Lankan police and th e Army, so that they

don't have to carry arms illegally. They can carry those arms legally by joining the police and armed forces.

He said that the northeast province chief minister Varadaraja Perumal wanted a Tamil National Army controlled by him. The government cannot permit the setting up of private armies by chief ministers.

At this point, Inspector General of Police Ernest Perera said that there were 2,000 CVF [Citizens Volunteer Force] personnel attached to the police in the north and east.

The minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defence in answer to a question whether the TNA was serving as a mercenary army replied in affirmative.

Describing it as another lie, Mr Wijeratne said that IPKF had denied that one of its helicopters had landed in Mannar during a TNA attack on the security forces recently. The minister said that in that case the Sri Lankan security forces may have seen a mirage, an apparition of a helicopter. [passage omitted]

Rival Tamil Guerrilla Groups Clash, Killing 29

BK2012130889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1257 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 20 (AFP)—A Tamil party governing Sri Lanka's northeast claimed it had killed 23 rival guerrillas and lost six of its own men during heavy fighting in the island's Batticaloa District Wednesday.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said its armed members fought pitched battles with more than 500 men of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for nearly five hours in the eastern district.

An EPRLF statement issued in India's southern Madras city and reported by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) also alleged that the LTTE fighters were supported by the Sri Lankan Army and Air Force.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the report, which came shortly after the LTTE, Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group, announced in Colombo that it had won recognition as a political party.

The EPRLF statement said the Citizens Volunteer Force (CVF), the police outfit of its northeastern government comprised mainly of EPRLF militants, had inflicted "heavy casualties" on the LTTE in Wednesday's fighting.

It said 23 LTTE and six CVF personnel were killed and 72 LTTE and eight CVF members were wounded. It added that the Tigers carried away some of the dead in two trucks.

The statement came about a week after the LTTE overran EPRLF positions and captured Batticaloa town following heavy fighting. The EPRLF, which governs Sri Lanka's northeast, and the LTTE, which is now holding peace talks with Colombo, are bitter rivals.

The EPRLF statement said its fighters recaptured some bases lost "recently" to the LTTE.

The EPRLF maintains an office in Madras, capital of India's southern Tamil Nadu State which is home to nearly 55 million Tamils and where sympathy for the island's Tamil community runs high.